Civil Society Meeting ahead of the 72\textsuperscript{nd} World Health Assembly
Geneva, WCC Ecumenical Centre, Friday 17 May 2019

WHO, civil society and “non-State actors”:
How to deal with a difficult relationship

Welcome!
The workshop will start at 9.00 hrs
Coffee available at cafeteria - be back on time!
Civil Society Meeting ahead of WHO EB 144

Geneva, Ecumenical Centre, 23 January 2019

#EB144
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#WHA72

Welcome

- Meeting organized by the Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2) and the G2H2 working group “WHO and global health governance and financing”
- Global Health Governance as core of G2H2
- Thanks to WCC for hosting the workshop
- Closed civil society workshop
  - sharing, debating, strategizing “among ourselves”
  - participants: civil society only, no “guests”
  - confidentiality: no topical tweeting, no quotes without consent
  - follow up as outlined in final session and/or by the working group

We are building a strong civil society space in Geneva for more democratic global health
Two interrelated topics
two interrelated tracks

“We are civil society (aren’t we?)”

Defining and defending the space and voice of civil society at the WHO and in global policy processes

“Of partnership(s), non-State actors, multistakeholderism”

Watching and commenting on partnership and multistakeholder paradigm and “non-state actors” policy/strategies at the WHO
Programme, structure of the conversation

Morning: Introductions, assessments, debate

• Civil society: definitions, realities, challenges
• Non-state actors, partnership paradigm, multistakeholderism

Afternoon: Two working groups, four concrete cases

• Inputs: What’s the story? What’s the problem?
• Democratic brainstorming and strategizing: Civil society analysis, positions, strategies, proposals, demands?

Final plenary: Sharing, integrating, perspectives

• What will I do? What will we do? WHA and beyond
• What could/can/will we do together?
• What role for the G2H2 working group?
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Programme details

- see handout
- Speakers and moderators will be introduced
- For immediate concerns or questions: get in touch with Mareike and Thomas, in the breaks
9.15-10.30 hrs, first plenary

“We are civil society (aren’t we?)”

• Individually and in small groups
  Warm-up
• Input by Andreas Wulf, medico international:
  “Civil society” from the inception of its concept until struggles of today
• Plenary discussion
  “We are civil society (aren’t we?)”
• Conclusions
  Towards a working definition of civil society and its position and role(s) in global health governance

Mareike Haase, Bread for the World: Moderator
Soosmita Sinha, Health Law Institute: Outlook to the afternoon breakout session
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9.15-10.30 hrs, first plenary
Warm-up

• Read the four quotes defining or framing “civil society”
• Rate them **** to * according to your agreement with the definition
• Try to attribute them to one of the sources listed at the bottom
• Think about how YOU would define civil society, how you see yourself as part of civil society (as individual or institution)
• Talk with your neighbour(s)

Warm-up: We are civil society (aren’t we?)

1. “Our definition of civil society is broad and covers non-governmental organisations, activists, civil society coalitions and networks, protest and social movements, voluntary bodies, campaigning organisations, charities, faith-based groups, trade unions and philanthropic foundations.”
2. “One of the key challenges we confronted was the heterogeneity of CSOs, and the fact that civil society represents a wide range of organisations, voices, and circumstances. As such, it was important to purposefully recognize that diversity. That meant taking a nuanced view of what we mean by ‘civil society’ by systematically identifying civil society sub-groups, understanding their relative strengths, and developing ways of working together that allow us to realize our joint potential.”
3. “Definitions of civil society as a ‘sphere separate from both the state and market’ (as the WHO defines civil society), indicating the non-state and non-profit characteristics, or occupying a space between the public and the private, are at best misleading. In the complex contemporary global architecture, traditional boundaries between what constitutes ‘public’ and what is ‘private’ are being eroded. The dichotomy is blurred in particular by the contemporary growth of private foundations registered by corporations (corporate-owned NGOs).”
4. “Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), labour leaders, faith-based organisations, religious leaders and other civil society representatives play a critical and diverse set of roles in societal development. In the last two decades these roles have shifted as the external environment for civil society has changed. Recently, a renewed focus on the essential contribution of civil society to a resilient global system alongside government and business has emerged.”

Sources: Please attribute
• WHO-Civil Society Task Team report, November 2018
• Klaus Schwab: Preface to The Future Role of Civil Society, WEF 2013
• CIVICUS website
• “A ‘new business model’ for NGOs?” In: Global Health Watch 3
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9.15-10.30 hrs, first plenary

Andreas Wulf, medico international
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11.00-12.30 hrs
Of partnership(s), non-State actors, and multistakeholderism

• Input by Karolin Seitz, Global Policy Forum:
  How the multistakeholder and partnership paradigm is currently implemented and how it has distorted civil society advocacy for WHO governance

• Comment by Ana Maria Suarez Franco, FIAN international
  Comment: Can we learn from other institutions? The case of CFS/FAO

• Debate
  Towards a shared assessment of what is wrong with the multistakeholder paradigm and how to counter it – how can we strengthen our voice within the multistakeholderism and how above this?

Remco van de Pas, MMI: Moderator
Karolin Seitz, GPF: Outlook afternoon breakout session/working group
What next

Afternoon: Two working groups, four concrete cases

• Inputs: What’s the story? What’s the problem?
• Democratic brainstorming and strategizing: Civil society analysis, positions, strategies, proposals, demands?

Leading questions for both working groups

• Is there a shared assessment of the cases presented and discussed? (What’s the story? What’s the problem?)
• Are there agreed civil society positions, proposals, and demands?
• What could/can/will we do together?
• Is there a common ground for a civil society statement on this topic?
• What action is needed at the World Health Assembly?
• Who will continue to work on the issue?
### Working group 1
**Same room (rearranged)**

#### Defining and defending the space and voice of civil society at the WHO and in global policy processes

**Inputs**
Thomas Schwarz, MMI

**Moderation**
Soosmita Sinha, HLI

**Rapporteur, final plenary**
Manoj Kurian, WCC

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### Working group 2
**Room Lac 200, second floor**

#### Watching and commenting on partnership and multistakeholder paradigm and “non-state actors” policy and strategies at the WHO

**Inputs**
Remco van de Pas, MMI
KM Gopakumar, Third World Network

**Moderation**
Karolin Seitz, GPF

**Rapporteur, final plenary**
Maik Duennbier, IOGT
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16.30-17.30 hrs: Final plenary
From analysis and debate to strategies, positions and proposals

Reporting back from the two working groups sharing and, if possible, integrating outcomes

- Shared assessments?
- Agreed positions, proposals, demands?
- What will I do? What will we do? WHA and beyond
- What could/can/will we do together?
- What role for the G2H2 working group?

Panelists: Manoj Kurian and Maik Duennbier, working group rapporteurs
Moderator: Auriane Guilbaud, Université Paris 8
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17.30-18.00 hrs
Closure

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