

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

#WHA72

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



*We are building a strong
civil society space in
Geneva for more
democratic global health*

Welcome!

The workshop will start at 9.00 hrs

Coffee available at cafeteria - be back on time!





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



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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?



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

First day of the civil society meetings ahead of the 72nd World Health Assembly



FRIDAY, 17 MAY 2019 IN GENEVA AT THE ECUMENICAL CENTRE (WCC BUILDING)
WHO, civil society and “non-State actors”
How to deal with a difficult relationship

This full-day civil society workshop builds on a session on WHO governance at the civil society meeting in January and will focus on some particular WHO governance processes/issues:

- Reform of WHO Governing Bodies and perspectives of a further shrinking space for civil society
- Interaction of the new WHO leadership with various “civil society” teams and in various processes: Representation and legitimacy issues
- WHO engagement with non-State actors, FENSA evaluation
- Strategies of the new WHO leadership for engaging with non-State actors (“partners”) including philanthropic foundations and the private sector based on / beyond FENSA

The workshop is organized by the G2H2 working group on WHO and global health governance and financing. It shall allow deepening the analysis (what’s the problem) and moving towards strategizing and cooperating (what needs to be done, what we can do together). The workshop is closed, for civil society organizations only (G2H2 members or by invitation).

PROGRAMME

8.30-9.00	COFFEE AND NETWORKING
09.00	WELCOME
FIRST PLENARY	“WE ARE CIVIL SOCIETY (AREN’T WE?)”
9.15-10.30	<p><i>Towards a working definition of civil society and its position and role(s) in global health governance</i></p> <p>“Civil society” is a difficult and contested concept that we need to better understand - and debate. In the field of global health policy, “civil society” has become a call for unity (“we are building a strong civil society space in Geneva for more democratic global health”), an instrument for inclusion and exclusion (“these are not proper civil society organizations”), a marketing label for lobbyists (“we represent civil society”), a romantic projection (“civil society gives a voice to the voiceless”), an instrument for window dressing, manipulation and co-option (“we have consulted civil society”), and much more.</p>
10.30-11.00	BREAK
SECOND PLENARY	“OF PARTNERSHIP(S), NON-STATE ACTORS AND MULTISTAKEHOLDERISM”
11.00-12.30	<p><i>Towards a shared assessment of what is wrong with the partnership paradigm and how to counter it, how can we strengthen our voice within the multistakeholderism, and how above this?</i></p> <p>15 years ago, WHO launched a “civil society initiative”, and there is a considerable narrative on “engagement with civil society” and other multilateral</p>



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

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)



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9.15-10.30 hrs, first plenary

Andreas Wulf, medico international

Civil Society from the inception of its concept
until struggles of today





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

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



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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