148th Session of the WHO Executive Board: Another waste of time – or time to restore WHO as directing global health authority?

Series of public briefings and debates hosted by G2H2, 11-15 January 2021

Welcome!

Today’s session will start at 16.30 CET

Website: http://g2h2.org/posts/january2021/
Enquiries: Thomas Schwarz, info@g2h2.org
Series of public briefings and debates ahead of WHO EB148, 11-15 January 2021

- Monday, 11 January 2021, 12.30-14.00 CET
  Human rights and the Covid-19 response: Lessons for the future, action for now
  Session organized by the People’s Health Movement

- Tuesday, 12 January 2021, 16.30-18.00 CET
  What can WHO contribute to making COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and technologies global public good?
  Session organized by Viva Salud

- Wednesday, 13 January 2021, 16.30-18.00 CET
  Private sector engagement for strong health systems?
  Session organized by WSFHSS and CSEND

- Thursday, 14 January 2021, 16.30-18.00 CET
  Rescue the World Health Organization from itself?
  Session organized by Society for International Development

- Friday, 15 January 2021, 16.30-18.00 CET
  What reform agenda for the WHO EB?
  Session organized by Medicus Mundi International Network
Thursday, 14 January 2021
Rescue the World Health Organization from itself?

Today’s session

Session organizer: Society for International Development
Session contact: Nicoletta Dentico ndentico@sidint.org
Documentation: http://g2h2.org/posts/january2021/
General enquiries: Thomas Schwarz, info@g2h2.org
Time to rally behind the World Health Organization

A civil society statement (April 2020)

The unprecedented outbreak of the new coronavirus once again places the WHO at the center of public action for health. Independent global health experts in countries around the world highlight the importance of the WHO in the response to this global public health crisis both in terms of the quality and timeliness of recommendations and decisions. This is no small feat given heavy criticism of the organization in the past, such as the Ebola Crisis in West Africa in 2014/15, the H1N1 Influenza Pandemic in 2009, and the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic of 2020. It shows that this unique UN Organization has taken a big step forward in performing the role of coordinating agency in global health.

US President Donald Trump’s serious accusations, disgraceful campaigning and threats of withholding funding can only be understood as a blame-game by a government that scapegoats others to shift responsibility and failure to prevent and manage the crisis. We condemn this tirade against the WHO and the UN as utterly irresponsible, particularly in such a critical situation that requires solidarity.

We are of the opinion that governments, including that of the United States, should be more concerned with ensuring that all health workers and others on the frontline delivering services to the public have the necessary resources to perform their jobs safely.

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Rescue the World Health Organization from itself?

The “Italian case”...

“The World Health Organization’s suppression of an independent report that critically examined both the strengths and weaknesses of Italy’s COVID-19 pandemic response – sets a dangerous precedent that compromises the international organization’s credibility at a time when WHO’s independence has been questioned – and the Italian national pandemic response is under intense scrutiny as well, longtime WHO observers in Italy are saying.

The controversy revolves around the WHO report – “An unprecedented challenge – Italy’s first response to COVID-19” – which a senior WHO official, Ranieri Guerra attempted to censor and revise – before the publication was removed entirely by WHO’s European Regional Office from its official online link, just a day after being published in mid-May.

Guerra, WHO Assistant Director General of Strategic Initiatives, is a former high-ranking official in Italy’s Ministry of Health, who served as director of the Ministry’s Prevention department between 2014 and 2017. As head of the Prevention team, Guerra should have taken the lead in the updating of Italy’s 2006 national pandemic preparedness plan – as per a 2013 European Commission request to EU member states. But the plan was never updated, critics say. “
Thursday, 14 January 2021

Rescue the World Health Organization from itself?

An unprecedented challenge

Nicoletta Dentico, Society for International Development: Introduction, setting the scene

Followed by discussion

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Thursday, 14 January 2021

Rescue the World Health Organization from itself?

Thank you!

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A series of public briefings and debates ahead of the 148\textsuperscript{th} Session of the Executive Board

In a series of public briefings and debates hosted by the Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2), civil society organizations ask how the World Health Organization can live up to its constitutional mandate of being the directing and coordinating authority on international health work.

The content of the briefings and debates was shaped through the feedback received from G2H2 members, based on their scrutiny of the topics to be taken up by the Executive Board.

In the tradition of G2H2 briefings ahead of WHO governing body meetings, all sessions will start with analysis and proposals provided by civil society organizations, followed by responses by representatives of WHO members and the Secretariat (if available) and a general debate.

Meeting website/registration: http://g2h2.org/posts/january2021/
General enquiries: G2H2 Secretariat, Thomas Schwarz, info@g2h2.org
11-15 January 2021: Series of briefings/debates hosted by the Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2)

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In the tradition of G2H2 civil society events ahead of WHO governing body meetings...

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#EB148

Geneva Global Health Hub

G2H2 is set up as a membership based association, founded in 2016.

We want to provide a space and enable civil society to meet, share knowledge and create initiatives to advocate for more democratic global health governance.

The values that guide and drive the work of G2H2 are belief in democracy with equity in diversity; dignity; accountability and transparency; and ethics and justice.

Civil society organizations: Join us! Support us!

We are building a strong civil society space in Geneva for more democratic global health
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Session contact: Nicoletta Dentico
Social media: #EB148