

## What is to be done to recover peoples' sovereignty: Nutrition, food, global health and corporate power

Civil Society Brainstorming Meeting before the 70th World Health Assembly  
Geneva, Ecumenical Centre, Friday 19 May 2017, 9:30-17:00 hrs

We refer to a concept note sent to potential participants in March when we outlined the background, objectives, overall approach and format of a second "civil society brainstorming meeting" taking place ahead of the 70<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in May. With the format of a brainstorming meeting, we want to create a protected space for reflection and interaction in order to think through key global health governance issues together.

After our successful start in January ("Let's talk: Economic determination of health policies and governance"), the second civil society brainstorming meeting organized by G2H2 aims at exploring the links between nutrition, food systems, seeds, agroecology, food sovereignty, global health, intellectual property rights, labour laws, human rights, corporate power and abuses, and global governance. This time, we propose our brainstorming to extend itself into what are the possible implications of all this interconnectedness to our sectoral specific struggles and overall strategies to recover people's sovereignty over the public space. What is to be done? What are the implications for us as citizens, local, national and international public interest CSOs, and our specific struggles and processes? Should we converge on specific processes?

We invite global health advocates and activists and colleagues from the food and nutrition and other sectors to join us.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Deeper understanding of the interlinkages among the themes discussed and each other's approaches and positions.
- Laying the ground for more concrete strategizing and future cooperation, by creating conditions where more cooperation and convergence across the networks can be facilitated.

### CIVIL SOCIETY MEETINGS AHEAD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The brainstorming meeting on 19 May is complemented by a reception and buffet dinner and is part of broader program of civil society meetings ahead of the 70<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly:

19 May 2017 Friday	9:30-17:00 hrs	<b>Civil Society Brainstorming meeting</b> "What is to be done to recover peoples' sovereignty: Nutrition, food, global health and corporate power"
	17:00 hrs	Reception and buffet dinner (at the Ecumenical Centre)
20 May 2017 Saturday	9:00-16:00 hrs	<b>Civil Society Strategy meeting</b> Session 1: Key agenda items of the World Health Assembly Session 2: Focus on WHO governance (at the Ecumenical Centre)
21 May 2017 Sunday	13:00-14:30 hrs	<b>Geneva Global Health Hub: Annual General Meeting</b> For members and all interested civil society colleagues (at the Maison de la Paix)

#### Geneva Global Health Hub

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*"We build a coherent, progressive and strong civil society space in Geneva for more democratic global health governance."*

## DRAFT PROGRAM

9:30	<b>COFFEE AND CROISSANTS, INTRODUCTIONS AND NETWORKING</b>
10:00-13:00	<b>MORNING SESSION: CORPORATE CAPTURE OF FOOD, NUTRITION AND HEALTH: SEARCHING THE COMMON AGENDA</b>
<b>GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF THE FOOD, NUTRITION AND HEALTH POLICY SPACES: HOW TO STRENGTHEN BRIDGES AMONG THE SECTORAL GROUPS</b>	
<p>The global governance of the food, nutrition and health public policy space has been in wild dispute over the last decades, in particular due to the growing presence of the private corporate sector in it, in association with growing evidence that corporate interests are very much at the root of processes that seriously impact the area, such as: land grabbing and forced displacement, increased use of agrochemicals and GMOs, concentration of power in the hands of fewer and fewer corporation in relevant areas (food production , processing, distribution and marketing, seeds, fertilizers, genetic resources, medicines, etc.), which have strong presence in all sectors.</p> <p>How can civil society organizations and social movements working in these policy areas improve their grasp of the common challenges and better synergize their struggles? The morning session will consist of three short presentations responding to this question, highlighting the challenges and advances of the different constituencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of social movements in the reform of the <b>FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS)</b>: Struggle against land grabbing and for food sovereignty, agro-ecological principles and coherence with human rights</li> <li>• Follow-up of the <b>Second International Conference of Nutrition (ICN2)</b> and the <b>Nutrition Civil Society Group's</b> struggle to recognize the structural links between food and nutrition in their multidimensionality</li> <li>• The interconnectedness between the food and nutrition industry and health governance in <b>WHO related processes</b></li> </ul> <p>Each presentation will be followed by a discussion in the plenary or in small groups.</p>	
13:00-14:00	<b>LUNCH</b>
14:00-17:00	<b>AFTERNOON SESSION: WHAT WE ARE DOING TO RECOVER PEOPLES' SOVEREIGNTY</b>
<b>MOBILIZING FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY ON THE REGULATION OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNCs): A STRATEGY THAT NEEDS ALL OF US OR DEVIATES US FROM OTHER RELEVANT SECTORAL ACTIVITIES?</b>	
<p>The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) approved, in a tight vote, a resolution proposed by Ecuador and South Africa to establish an Intergovernmental open ended working group to elaborate a regulation of TNCs and other businesses. This move, counting mainly with the support of Global South countries, was a reaction against the increasing pressure suffered by Global South governments in the hands of Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanisms, with its huge fines and, in most cases, non-appealable sentences.</p> <p>The first part of the afternoon session will consist of two presentations of civil society campaigns, followed by plenary discussions and/or group work on how to link these struggles to specific sectoral struggles, and on how to establish a virtuous cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Treaty Alliance</b> – unifying civil society and human rights organizations for the treaty – holding corporate and governments accountable to their responsibilities and obligations</li> <li>• <b>Dismantle corporate power and the Peoples' Treaty</b> – linking specific struggles to the construction of an autonomous legal standard based on the processes and experiences of social movements and communities throughout the world</li> </ul>	
<b>THE RESISTANCE OF THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR STRUGGLES IN THEIR TERRITORIES AGAINST CORPORATE POWER ABUSES AND CRIMES</b>	
<p>In the second part of the afternoon session, an initial input is followed by a final plenary leading to conclusions and the definition of next steps to strengthen mobilization and increase the convergence of struggles.</p>	
17:00	<b>RECEPTION AND BUFFET DINNER</b>

*Further program details and a list of initial speakers will be communicated to registered participants ahead of the meeting. You are welcome to send feedback and enquiries to the G2H2 secretariat.*

## ORGANIZER AND HOST

The Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2) set up by a group of civil society organizations in 2016 intends to contribute to longer-term strategic thinking and coherent and sustained action by civil society entities involved in global health advocacy. The civil society events ahead of the meetings of the WHO Governing Bodies (Executive Board and World Health Assembly) are considered a key project of G2H2 in the coming years.

Organizing team: Flavio Valente, Garance Upham, Manoj Kurian, Thomas Schwarz

The strategy meeting is kindly hosted by the World Council of Churches. Thanks to G2H2 members, WCC and South Centre for providing financial support.

## CONTACT AND REGISTRATION

By invitation only. Send enquiries to the G2H2 secretariat

Online registration for invited participants: G2H2 website

Registration Deadline: 17 May 2017

Program updates: [www.g2h2.org/posts/event/may2017/](http://www.g2h2.org/posts/event/may2017/)

Urgent enquiries at the day of the meeting: +41 79 645 01 37 (Thomas)

## VENUE

Ecumenical Centre, Route de Ferney 150

Grand-Saconnex, Geneva

How to get there: From the Cornavin railway station or the Airport, take bus No. 5 (direction Airport) or bus No. 28 (direction Vernier). From the Airport, take bus No. 5 (direction Thônex) or bus No. 28 (direction Jardin Botanique). Leave the bus at Crêts de Morillon (stop on demand). The entrance to the Ecumenical Centre is at Route des Morillons 1. Our meeting room is on the ground floor, next to the reception desk.

