


Meeting with WHO DG Dr Tedros, 20 November 2017:

Geneva Global Health Hub: “We are building a strong civil society space in Geneva for more democratic global health”

- **The Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2) was founded in 2016**, at a side event to the World Health Assembly. The project builds on a long tradition of civil society engagement with WHO and its policy and governance processes and on the related advocacy and analytical work undertaken by its members.
- **G2H2 aims at building a strong civil society space in Geneva for more democratic global health governance** and at contributing to longer-term strategic thinking and coherent and sustained action by civil society entities involved in global health.
- **G2H2 convenes strategy and thematic meetings ahead of the WHO governing body meetings (2 days in January, 2 days in May)** covering both the concrete agenda of that meeting and key topics in the field of global health policy, governance and intersectoral civil society collaboration.
 - January 2017: “Let’s talk: Economic determination of health policies and governance”
 - May 2017: What is to be done to recover peoples’ sovereignty: nutrition, food sovereignty, global health, and corporate power
 - January 2018: WHO Governance - separate memo with invitation
- **G2H2 promotes and facilitate resulting advocacy initiatives (through joint civil society statements, publications and working groups)**
 - WHO DG Election: “The WHO we want and the leadership WHO needs” as a follow-up of a civil society strategy meeting in January 2017.
 - 70th World Health Assembly 2017: “WHA Today”
 - Consultation in view of GPW13: Promotion and collection of civil society input
- **G2H2 informs members and partners about current processes and events** at WHO and other Geneva global health institutions that need their attention, and promotes the visibility of civil society input in such processes.
 - G2H2 website with events calendar and current consultations www.g2h2.org
 - G2H2 on Twitter https://twitter.com/G2H2_Geneva (Dr Tedros kindly follows our Tweets)
- There are practical issues regarding transparency, inclusiveness and “user friendliness of WHO processes and meetings where G2H2 has the mandate to directly speak for its members.”
 - Separate memo “Transparency and inclusiveness of WHO processes”



**The WHO we want
and the leadership
WHO needs**

A message from civil society

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Some key concerns of G2H2 members and the particular role of the Hub can be well illustrated by looking at our current working groups:

- **Task Group “40 years of Alma-Ata” (2018)**

The G2H2 task group for the Anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration is glad to see that its initial contacts with Dr Rüdiger Krech, WHO Health Systems and Innovation, have led to a fruitful conversation about options for an official WHA side event (as a compliment to the Almaty celebrations) on “Translating ‘Health for All’ into the Future” and to an shared assessment that involvement of civil society in such an event is critical for its success.

The G2H2 task group expects such an event to allow both a critical analysis of the state of implementation of the main principles expressed in the Alma-Ata Declaration (in particular: addressing determinants of health; global solidarity for health equity; accountability to the people, access to comprehensive health care services for all through a system structured around the principles of Comprehensive Primary Health Care); and a renewal of a broad commitment to the values and the agenda of change expressed by the Declaration.

- Annex: Concept note “40 Years of Alma-Ata. Translating ‘Health for All’ into the Future

- **Working group “FENSA watch”**

The FENSA Watch working group takes up civil society engagement in the WHO reform process over the last six years. Civil society advocates are in particular worried about the power of the private commercial sector to influence policy-making and the normative work of WHO. They are worried about the independence of WHO and how it deals with conflicts of interest within the organization (in particular: need to attract funding and need to protect the integrity of the organization and its political processes). FENSA Watch focuses on (a) admission of NSA into official relations (b) FENSA implementation tools (c) FENSA implementation in key WHO processes and hosted partnerships.

- Separate memo “FENSA and its implementation”

- **Working group “Philanthrocapitalism and global health governance”**

Civil society advocacy against the admission of the Gates Foundation (BMGF) into Official Relations with WHO, in January this year, shows well the concerns regarding the influence of the big philanthropic foundations on global health policies and governance. At the G2H2 workshop on “WHO Governance: Still many open questions” there was a consensus in the room on the importance to continue gathering evidence on the operations of the BMGF. There was a proposal to develop a campaign on philanthrocapitalism that can raise awareness on the structural elements behind the BMGF phenomenon and its impacts on the ground, also across the global South.

- **Working group “Global health and corporate power”**

Based on a resolution by the UN Human Rights Council, an Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group is currently drafting a binding treaty on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. The field of health is one of the most affected by corporate action.

At a workshop hosted by G2H2 in May 2017 on “What is to be done to recover peoples’ sovereignty: nutrition, food sovereignty, global health, and corporate power”, representatives of networks and campaigns promoting the binding treaty proposed to health sector organizations to get more involved in the process. As a result, the G2H2 working group on “Global health and corporate power” was established in summer 2017, with the aim of continuing and deepening the intersectoral dialogue on corporate power and global health and to develop contributions by the health sector to related activities and campaigns. The group would love to a strong WHO engagement in this process.

Concept note for an official side event to the 71st World Health Assembly, May 2018

40 Years of Alma-Ata: Translating “Health for All” into the Future

The Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978 emerged as a major milestone in the field of global public health. Referring to the social, political and structural determinants of health, emphasizing the importance of accountability to the people, and proposing comprehensive Primary Health Care (PHC) as key to the attainment of the goal of Health for All, the Declaration still reads as a visionary and revolutionary text:

- *“The Conference strongly reaffirms that health, which is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, is a fundamental human right and that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important world-wide social goal whose realization requires the action of many other social and economic sectors in addition to the health sector.*
- *The existing gross inequality in the health status of the people, particularly between developed and developing countries as well as within countries, is politically, socially, and economically unacceptable and is, therefore, of common concern to all countries.*
- *The people have a right and duty to participate individually and collectively in the planning and implementation of their health care.*
- *Primary health care is essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound, and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community through their full participation and at a cost that the community and country can afford to maintain at every stage of their development in the spirit of self-reliance and self-determination.*
- *An acceptable level of health for all the people of the world by the year 2000 can be attained through a fuller and better use of the world's resources, a considerable part of which is now spent on armaments and military conflicts.”*

Extracts from: [Declaration of Alma-Ata](#)

Reference: [WHO](#)

Objectives of the proposed official side event

An official WHA side event to commemorate the 40 year jubilee of the Alma-Ata Conference and Declaration jointly organized by WHO Member States, the WHO Secretariat and civil society shall allow to:

- Critically analyse the state of implementation of the main Alma-Ata Declaration principles (in particular: addressing determinants of health; global solidarity for health equity; accountability to the people, access to comprehensive health care services for all through a system structured around the principles of Comprehensive Primary Health Care);
- Renew and promote a broad commitment to the values and the agenda of change expressed by the Declaration (universal access to health).

Programme / Speakers

7-8 inputs are provided on particularly relevant aspects, by speakers from different background. By according a strong voice to civil society, the session contributes to a renewal of the spirit of Alma-Ata.

Historical reference and baseline: The origins and concept of PHC, and the story and impact of the Alma-Ata Declaration	1. Public health “authority” 2. CSO engaged in the Alma-Ata process
Translating “Health for All” into the present and future: - Universality and people-centeredness of health policies and systems - Communities: From objects to full participation and ownership - Beyond charity: Health as a human right and a global public obligation - Beyond the health sector: Addressing root causes of health inequity - Beyond rhetoric: Translating global visions into societal change	3. WHO DG / Secretariat 4. Member state or UNICEF 5. CSO community/national) 6. HR advocate, other sector e.g. nutrition, land rights) 7. CSO (global South)
Outlook on continued dialogue: How the Republic of Kazakhstan and WHO will celebrate the Alma-Ata jubilee in October	8. MoH Kazakhstan

Contacts

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...reaching out to further WHO Member States and civil society organizations for co-hosting the event