
Call for Proposals: Topics for an initial series of CSO meetings with the WHO Director-General

Dear CSO colleagues,

In a feedback session after the first CSO webinar with the WHO Director-General Dr Tedros that took place on 8 July 2020, it was agreed for a small group of CSO representatives to come together to moderate the process of programming a continued series of such meetings with Dr Tedros. Find below our conclusion on elements / steps to successfully continue the series of “DG meetings” with the view of laying the ground for a more meaningful engagement of CSO with the WHO leadership.

We seek input for the selection of topics for an initial series of 5-10 civil society meetings with the WHO DG and his team.

To do so, please submit the following information (Not more than one (1) page outline/concept note) via e-mail to Jane Barratt (jbarratt@ifa.ngo) and Taina Nakari (nakarit@who.int) by 3 August 2020:

Please also refer to the background information and guidance (next page).

1. Topic / proposed title
2. CSO team in the lead and preferably a consortium of different organizations/networks
3. Contact (e-mail, mobile, Skype)
4. Relevance and urgency of the topic. What’s the problem? Related civil society/community analysis, positions, proposals, demands?
5. Why a “DG meeting”?
What role does/should the World Health Organization play in this field? Why this topic should be brought to the attention of the WHO DG and not relevant technical unit/s? What are objectives / expected outcomes regarding the DG meeting and the engagement with WHO? What concrete actions can be proposed, both from WHO and civil society?
If appropriate position the meeting in relation to other consultations (ongoing, planned, or needed) with the WHO.
6. Proposed outline and format of the meeting: *roundtable with expert panel*; or *broad “town hall”* style meeting with a variety of civil society speakers and inputs (diversity)?
7. If an *round table with expert panel* propose speakers
Who should be on the civil society panel? Contributions? Who should be on the panel from WHO? Are any other technical partners essential? Suggested criteria/mix:
 - Persons with sound expertise in the topic being discussed
 - Civil society and communities who have raised specific issues and concerns with respect to the proposed topic.
 - Persons who can speak to the lived experiences with respect to the proposed topic, such as representative(s) from vulnerable / marginalised populations, persons who have had or have COVID-19, persons or have delivered health and social services during COVID-19
 - Avoid panels all knowing each other from similar networks and strive for diversity (regions, kind of organizations, gender, etc.)

Jane Barratt, International Federation on Ageing
Harry Hausler, WHO Civil Society Task Force on TB
Thomas Schwarz, Medicus Mundi International
Network

Sophie Dilmitis, WHO Advisory Group of Women Living
with HIV
Eliana Monteforte, UHC2030 Civil Engagement
Mechanism
Sangeeta Shashikant, Third World network

Contact for enquiries and for submitting proposals:

CSO ad hoc group: Jane Barratt, jbarratt@ifa.ngo
WHO Secretariat: Taina Nakari, nakarit@who.int

Initial series of “DG meetings”: Background and guidance

After the good start with the civil society webinar with WHO DG Dr Tedros on 8 July, we still need to define the expected long term outcomes of this series of DG meetings, as part of a more meaningful engagement of WHO with civil society. However, the urgent first step is to implement an initial series of meetings in a way that leads to a positive dynamic and reconfirmed engagement of both the WHO leadership team and the civil society organizations involved.

DG meetings: Main characteristics of success

- thematically relevant and timely
- include a major cause to mobilisation
- conveying concrete actions
- inclusive, open to input, and triggering broad engagement
- well governed and managed process

Tentative format of DG meetings

- Roundtable discussion (CSO and WHO expert teams) or town hall (collecting a diversity of voices and input) depending upon the topic
- Every 3 weeks in the foreseeable future as the issues and opportunities are rapid and changing
- 1.5 hours preferred to 1 hours
- Up to the DG to define the composition of the WHO team attending the meeting

Modalities for the programming and implementation

- Call for proposals for thematic DG meetings is herewith launched. Please share it widely, beyond the ad hoc “focal points group” set up by the WHO secretariat for the first DG meeting
- Proposals to be submitted by ad hoc CSO teams by 3 August 2020 (further calls might follow)
- Selection of topics and programming of first DG meetings: by mixed delegation of CSOs and the WHO secretariat, based on a set of agreed criteria
- Implementation of every thematic meeting: by selected CSO team and a team designated by the WHO secretariat

Selection of the topics and their order for presentation

- The CSO ad hoc group together with the WHO Secretariat will select the themes, if more received than possible to accommodate
- The order of the DG topics will be determined by the CSO ad hoc group and WHO Secretariat

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