

Comments by Marianne Haslegrave, Commonwealth Medical Trust, on behalf of members of the Post-2015 Health Coalition

Co-facilitators, we would first like to thank you for your consistent engagement, and for receiving our suggestions today, first on health overall including paragraph 23, and second on adding a reference to well-being in the Zero Draft. We see the references to well-being as an important thread in the Declaration and as the aspiration for all peoples, hopefully to be achieved before 2030.

If asked to answer the question “Why is health in the Declaration?”, we would say that we see it as the ‘catalyst’ to inspire Governments, civil society and other stakeholders to achieve Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. We would, therefore request that health be specifically referenced after “physical and mental” in paragraph 15. On paragraph 23, we believe the paragraph is well-balanced, and we welcome the recognition of the importance of achieving universal health coverage.

However, the message would be strengthened by adding “including financial risk protection” and “first reaching those furthest behind”, in keeping with the wording and intentions of goal three and target 3.8.

We would also like to see the inclusion of the right for all to achieve the

highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and well-being, and addressing the social and environmental determinants of health, such as air pollution and water, together with references to reducing road traffic accidents. If not included under the gender section in the Declaration, reproductive rights could be added here.

These additions would ensure that this paragraph 23 would fully reflect the health goal, which is after all a pre-requisite for the successful achievement of the entire post-2015 development agenda.

All our suggestions are included in the attached longer version of our comments.

Thank you, Co-facilitators.

Combined comments submitted by members of the Health in Post-2015 Coalition on the Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda - June 23 (long version)

(Suggested wording is **emboldened**.)

Transforming our World by 2030 – a New Agenda for Global Action

I Preamble- Elements of the New Agenda

Rationale

The Declaration and ‘New Agenda’ should reflect the SDGs and targets, while being inspirational and ambitious, but achievable. ‘People’, women and men, girls and boys, furthermore, should be central as the main recipients of the benefits of a successful post-2015 development agenda should be central and their human rights must be respected, protected and fulfilled. We would therefore like to see a reference to equal access and the social dimension of sustainable development.

Possible revisions to text

Bullet 2:

- Secure **equal access to** education, health and basic services for all **without discrimination of any kind**;

Bullet 5:

- Foster inclusive **social development**, economic growth, shared prosperity and sustainable lifestyles for all;

II Our vision

Rationale:

We agree with those groups that see the vision not only as being ambitious but also achievable. We are very pleased to see the inclusion of physical, mental and social well-being in the zero draft, We are aware that poor health status could be a major impediment to the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda. We would like to see **health and social protection** also as part of the vision, with an emphasis on universal and **quality** education and health as this is an agenda for the next 15 years, and not just the immediate future.

Possible revisions to text:

15. In the goals and targets which we have agreed, we are setting out a supremely ambitious **but achievable** vision. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease, **human rights violations**, and want. A world, for example, of safe and nutritious food; of affordable drinking water; of universal access to **basic quality**

education **and health, and social protection**; of **the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health** and social well-being. A world of universal respect for **all human rights and human dignity, free of discrimination, coercion and violence**; of justice and equality; of respect for race and ethnicity, **for minorities and diversity**; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential while promoting shared prosperity. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality **and all their human rights, including freedom from violence and harmful traditional practices**; and all barriers to their empowerment **and full and equal participation in decision-making across social, cultural, economic, and political life** in our societies have been removed, A just, equitable, tolerant and inclusive world. And one in which humanity lives in complete harmony with nature.

III The new Agenda

(i) Well-being

Possible revisions to text:

16. We are announcing today 17 Goals with 169 associated targets. Never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavour across such a broad policy agenda, **which is essential for the wellbeing of all people, leaving no one behind, and the planet.** We are setting out together on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and of "win-win" cooperation which ~~can~~ **will** bring huge gains to all countries, **to all people** and all parts of the world. We will implement the Agenda for the full benefit of all, for today's generation and for future generations. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to international law and emphasize that the Agenda will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of states under international law.

(ii) Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights / sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Rationale:

We strongly support the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Declaration.

Possible revisions to text:

18. ~~Working for~~ **Realizing** gender equality, **the human rights of all women and girls** and their empowerment of women **in all their diversities across their lifespan** and girls will **be** make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets **and must be addressed in a cross-cutting way throughout the sustainable development agenda.** The achievement of full human potential and of

sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied **their** its full **human** rights and opportunities. This is also a basic issue of human rights. Women and girls must enjoy **their rights to** equal access to education and equal opportunities for employment with men and boys, **and their sexual and reproductive health and rights**. All forms of gender inequality, gender-based discrimination and violence against **all** women and children, both boys and girls, **including harmful traditional practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation**, will be combatted. **Women's and girls' burden of unpaid care work will be reduced and redistributed and the economic rights of women and girls, including their rights to land, inheritance, and other resources, decent work and social protection, and their rights to participation and leadership in decision-making at all levels across political, social, economic and cultural life, will be upheld.**

(iii) Comprehensive sexuality education

Rationale:

Quality education is not just reading, writing and arithmetic, it also means learning about the skills that will lead to a happy and successful life for all children and adolescents that will enable them to participate fully in society.

Possible revisions to text:

22. We commit to providing quality education at all levels- early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary. All people irrespective of gender, race or ethnicity, **or any other factor**, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children, **adolescents** and youth in vulnerable situations, **with particular attention to girls**, should have access to learning that helps them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society, **including through education on human rights, gender equality, peace, non-violence, comprehensive sexuality education, cultural diversity and sustainable lifestyles.**

(iv) Health

Rationale

Paragraph 23 on health includes many important issues and is well-balanced. We welcome the recognition of the importance of achieving universal health coverage but note that it does not reflect the intent of target 3.8, nor does it focus on first reaching those furthest behind. The paragraph would be further strengthened by including a reference to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. There could also be linkages to the health impacts of other areas e.g. the environment and nutrition. If not included under gender, a reference to

reproductive rights could be added here. This would ensure that this paragraph fully reflects the health goal, which must be achieved as part of a successful post-2015 development agenda.

Possible revisions to the text:

23. To achieve the new Agenda, the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health must be fulfilled for all. To extend life expectancy, **ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing** for all, we must achieve universal health coverage, **including financial risk protection and first reaching those furthest behind. It should include comprehensive access to quality health services in friendly health care settings free from discrimination.** No one must be left behind **and all factors of marginalization and exclusion should be addressed, including exclusion due age or disability.** We commit to accelerating the progress made to date in reducing infant **newborn**, child and maternal mortality **and morbidity** by ending all preventable deaths **and injuries** of infants **newborns**, children and expectant mothers **pregnant women and adolescent girls** by 2030. We shall ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning, information and education **for all.** We will equally accelerate the pace of progress made in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases and epidemics. At the same time we shall devote greater effort to tackling the **prevention and control** of non-communicable diseases **as well as improving mental health, and addressing social and environmental determinants of health, including pollution, and road traffic accidents among others.**

(v) Vulnerable sections of the population

Rationale:

From a health perspective, paragraph 21 does not fully include all of the vulnerable sections of the population.

Possible revisions to the text:

21. Vulnerable sections of the population whose needs are reflected in the goals and targets include children, youth, people living with disability and older people; the needs of others who are vulnerable, such as migrants, **men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who use drugs,** and indigenous peoples, are also reflected. People living in areas affected by conflict, terrorism and complex humanitarian emergencies are also experiencing severe challenges.