

Health in Post-2015 NGO Advocacy Group statement to the first intergovernmental session

21 January 2015

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen- thank you for the opportunity to make a statement. I speak today on behalf of the health cluster within the NGO Major Group, an informal coalition of health-related non-governmental organizations working to protect and promote health in the post-2015 development agenda.

We welcome the work undertaken thus far to establish the post-2015 agenda, particularly the outcomes of the Open Working Group and the proposed sustainable development goals and targets. It is our view that the proposed health goal and its supporting targets must capture the landscape of existing and emerging health issues, and that when taken together, establish the basis for an actionable agenda that will improve the health status of all people, everywhere. We strongly discourage reducing or limiting the scope of the goal and targets, and as such, trust that any technical proofing of the health targets will only serve to strengthen the proposals in this regard. The SDGs in their final iteration must ultimately ensure accessible, affordable, acceptable, and quality health care and services for all, including the most vulnerable, marginalized and excluded people, and foster health-enabling environments around the world.

In addition to retaining the current proposed health outcomes targets, equal attention must be paid to the means of implementation for health. Tackling health promotion including through comprehensive implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), increasing and improving sustained human and financial resources for health, strengthening health systems, ensuring proper investment in research and development for health, and building capacity for health including community-delivered health care at the national level, are the foundation for progress in health and development. Parallel processes including the Third International Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development must include in its outcomes commitments to ensure adequate, predictable, and sustained resources for health at international and domestic levels.

As we move toward the finalization of the post-2015 agenda, there remain several outstanding areas for health. In this regard, we call on Member States to:

1. Reaffirm and emphasize the commitment to realizing the Right to Health for all people, and as such, include a reference to the right to health in the Declaration;
2. Retain targets on universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education for all and the protection of sexual and reproductive rights, under both the health and gender goals;
3. Develop and support indicators for health that are measurable, realistic, and provide reliable data that can be disaggregated by sex, level of income, age, sexual orientation, and disability. Indicators for health must be able to sufficiently capture progress in the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized populations, including children and youth and LGBT people.
4. Ensure that the target and indicators on Universal Health Coverage promote equity, are comprehensive, capturing services across the health continuum and address financial risk protection;
5. Agree a final framework that sufficiently addresses the social determinants of health, including through agreeing health-sensitive indicators across the relevant SDGs;
6. Continue to engage civil society in an open and transparent manner, and recognize the important role civil society will play in implementing the post-2015 framework.

We thank you for your continued efforts to agree a final framework that helps ensure that all people, of all ages, and in all geographies can realize a healthy future for all. Thank you.

Signatories:

Access Our Medicines

Aeras

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

American Cancer Society

Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat)

DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung)

Framework Convention Alliance for Tobacco Control (FCA)

Frontline Health Workers Coalition

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

Episcopal Relief and Development

The Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care

Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth, an initiative of Seattle Childrens

Global Health Council

Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases

Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS

HelpAge International

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

International Community of Women Living with HIV

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)

The International HIV/AIDS Alliance

International-Lawyers.org

International Pediatric Association

International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)

Medical Mission Sisters

Medicines for Malaria Venture - MMV

NCD Alliance

NCD Child

PATH

Sabin Vaccine Institute

TB Alliance

Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

World Animal Protection

World Heart Federation

World Lung Foundation