

Civil Society Manifesto on Global Health - EU ELECTIONS 2014

This manifesto has been prepared by civil society organisations involved in global health issues. It aims to inform European political parties on the importance of improving **universal access to timely, affordable, accessible and quality health information and services** through EU policies during the next legislature.

Health is universally recognized as a basic human right and a key precondition to economic growth and development.ⁱ Achieving the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for all is a shared responsibility and a social challenge that requires co-operation between the EU, partner countries, and citizens both of EU Member States, and of all around the world. Achieving the highest attainable standard of **health for all** is also an integral part of thriving societies, a cornerstone of well performing economies, and a shared principle of European democracies and their partner countries.

Investing in global health is a moral and economic imperative. Saving lives and helping the world's most vulnerable people are enshrined in the core values of the European Union and its vision as a global actor. Despite the economic crisis, now is not the time to turn our backs on those suffering the most. Indeed, both increased labour productivity of a healthy population and a reduced burden of disease will directly improve countries' socio-economic and human development.ⁱⁱ If the EU as the world's biggest development aid donor wants to achieve the main objectives of its development policy, substantial EU investments in global health and a strong enabling policy framework are crucial.

The following **four recommendations** should guide the European Parliament and the other Institutions' external action and global health policies:

- Ensure **adequate and coherent financing for global health** across the EU policy spectrum:
 - Allocate 20% of all EU development assistance to health and basic education;ⁱⁱⁱ
 - Invest in research and development for new and improved prevention, diagnostic tools and treatments, currently under-supplied by the market to fight urgent global health threats;^{iv}
 - Explore the potential for innovative development financing mechanisms and use the Financial Transaction Tax as an opportunity to increase budgets for international development assistance;
- Ensure the political dialogue on the **future international development agenda** prominently features health as a key goal of sustainable development
- Ensure EU political, legal and **commercial agreements do not become barriers** to access to lifesaving medicines
- Ensure the **development of an action oriented and time bound global health strategy** to deliver on EU commitments on global health

We call on European political parties to include global health as a key priority in their manifestos for the 2014 elections and to take forward the above recommendations.

ⁱ As enshrined in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ⁱⁱ For more information, see Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (CMH), 'Investing in Health for Economic Development', 1st edition 2004. Available at: <<http://www.who.int/macrohealth/action/sintesis15novingles.pdf>>

ⁱⁱⁱ Health is defined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) codes 120 and 130. Basic education is the completion of nine years of qualitative lower education i.e. the DAC Code 112 adding a separate code for "lower-secondary education" that currently does not exist.

^{iv} WHO Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development (CEWG): financing and coordination recommended that developed countries should consider committing 0.15%-0.2% of GDP to government-funded health research: http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/172435/FINAL-E-Print-version-Claudia-Stein-CEWG-Matters-Arising.pdf



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