

# SIXTY-NINTH (69<sup>TH</sup>) WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

## MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUÉ

### FOREIGN POLICY AND GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK

*Geneva, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

1. The Ministers of Health of the Foreign Policy and Global Health (FPGH) network, comprising **Brazil, France, Indonesia, Norway, Senegal, South Africa and Thailand** met today on the side-lines of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva.
2. The FPGH Ministers, taking cognizance of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the FPGH network reaffirmed their commitment to the role of the Network in promoting synergy between Foreign Policy and Global Health, as well as the contribution of the Oslo Ministerial Declaration entitled “Global Health: a pressing foreign policy issue of our time” in celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oslo Ministerial Declaration. The Ministers committed to evaluating the achievements to inform future work.
3. The Ministers welcomed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They commended the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/70/1 in which the General Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations Summit on the post-2015 Development Agenda with 17 important goals including goal 3 “To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. They urged World Health Organization (WHO) Member States to implement the Agenda towards healthy lives for all at all ages.
4. They further noted resolution A/67/81 of the United Nations General Assembly on Global Health and Foreign Policy, which addressed Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and also welcomed the initiative of the Prince Mahidol Award Conference scheduled for January 2017, on Health of the vulnerable groups, to discuss and recommend concrete actions to ensure that no one is left behind in terms of health under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
5. The Ministers noted that challenges in international health, including major inequities and vulnerabilities among and within countries and regions, still remain and need persistent attention and reinforced commitment of the international community to promote poverty eradication and sustainable development. The Ministers look forward to the adoption of the resolution on the global strategy for women, children and adolescent health by the 69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly.
6. The Ministers agreed that equity and the right to health must drive implementation of the 2030 Agenda incorporating the principles for Universal Health Coverage based on health systems including universal access to quality care for all including promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose users to financial hardship. In line with this, they further recognized Universal Health Coverage as a key contribution to enhancing health, social cohesion and sustainable human and economic development (Rio +20) and as an important element of “The future we want”.
7. The Ministers acknowledged that health is both a driver and a beneficiary of economic growth and development, and in this regard they stressed the importance of building health systems to guarantee universal access. They also noted that health has a strong relationship with the core values in the 2030 Development Agenda which also

emphasises Intersectoral collaboration, universality, poverty eradication, sustainable development, human rights, inclusion, participation and equality, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities as per the Agenda 2030 United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/70/1.

8. The Ministers recognized the importance of primary healthcare as a basis for strong and efficient health systems and emphasized the role of the primary healthcare workforce in this regard as well as in the strengthening of health systems.
9. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth (HLC HEEG) following the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution A/70/183 on Global Health and Foreign Policy to create health employment.
10. There was agreement that the SDGs and their targets require stronger action and co-operation with non-health sectors, notably finance, education, labour, employment and social welfare, as well as an emphasis on innovative research and development.
11. With regard to the Reform of WHO, the Ministers welcomed the efforts of the Organisation and urged an increased emphasis on implementation. They noted the importance of strengthening the Organization through effective reforms, and called on WHO to do more to achieve adequate and sustainable financing.
12. The Ministers recognized the lead role of WHO as the primary specialized agency for the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, acting as directing and coordinating authority on international health work.
13. The Ministers noted progress in developing a Framework for Engagement for Non-State Actors as a tool to facilitate effective transparent and constructive engagement with Non-State Actors.
14. The Ministers further noted WHO's efforts to develop an Emergency Programme to address emergencies and urged WHO to ensure that all three levels of the Organisation are adequately coordinated, funded and structured to be effective in addressing health emergencies.
15. They reaffirmed their commitment to an effective and coordinated response to epidemics such as the recent Ebola outbreaks and others as well as to scale-up country health emergency preparedness, especially through the effective implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)) under the auspices of WHO.
16. They re-emphasized in this respect, as recalled by resolutions EBSS3.R1 on Ebola of 25 January 2015, of the WHO Executive Board and 69/1 of 19 September 2014 of the UN General Assembly that the response at all levels of WHO must be guided by an all-hazards health emergency approach, emphasizing adaptability, flexibility and accountability; principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence; predictability, timeliness, and country ownership; and building on effective collaboration with all relevant entities in line with their respective mandates.
17. The Ministers stressed the importance of the implementation of the Framework on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for Sharing of Influenza Viruses and Access to Vaccines and Other Benefits and noted that its implementation should be in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).

- 18.** They applauded the global efforts and successes in addressing global health threats and called upon the international community to continue supporting and assisting efforts of affected countries in addressing threats including by ensuring the availability of effective and affordable vaccines.
- 19.** The Ministers strongly welcomed the WHO Roadmap for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution.
- 20.** The Ministers agreed on the importance of implementing the Fast Track approach to combatting HIV/AIDS as reflected by the UNAIDS global strategy 2016-21, and expressed deep concern over the consequences that would result if the progress made in fighting the AIDS epidemic over the last two decades is not sustained. They noted the critical importance in this regard of the High-Level Meeting to take place in New York in June 2016.
- 21.** They expressed concern over increasing violence and attacks against health facilities and health workers, and its consequences in terms of access to health services and further welcomed the resolution A/69/132, adopted during the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, under the item Global Health and Foreign Policy.
- 22.** The Ministers Recognized that the main impact of antimicrobial resistance is on human health, but that both the contributing factors and the consequences, including economic and others, go beyond health, and that there is need for a coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach at global, regional and national levels, involving different actors and sectors such as human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, finance, environment and consumers; recalling, in this respect, the Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance adopted on 25 May 2015 by the World Health Assembly and welcoming the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting to take place in New York in September.
- 23.** In this regard they recalled the need for help and attention from the international community, particularly to countries with limited resources and vulnerable healthcare systems, in strengthening antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention and control, as well as reinforcing cooperation in research and development investments.
- 24.** The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Doha Declaration on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Public Health and underlined the need for the full implementation of the TRIPS flexibilities.
- 25.** The Ministers welcomed the work of the WHO's Member State Mechanism on Substandard, Spurious, Falsely Labelled, Falsified and Counterfeit (SSFFC) medical products, and draft resolutions to be considered by the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the World Health Assembly on the global shortage of medicines and safe children's medicines. They further noted the work of WHO on financing and coordination of Research and Development and called on other Member States to support progress in this regard. In this context they look forward to discussing the report of the High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- 26.** The Ministers acknowledged the Global Strategy for Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 and the resolution, in particular to support implementation of key aspects particularly as they pertain to anticipating workforce needs.
- 27.** The Ministers recognized the urgent need for an improved and more effective coordinated response capacity for the international community, and especially for WHO and Member States, in responding to health-related emergencies and crisis. They noted the report on the High-Level Panel on the Global Health response to health crisis and its

recommendations, and welcomed the decision of the Group to address this issue, with particular reference to the resilience of health systems, as addressed in United Nations General Assembly resolution A/70/183.

- 28.** The Ministers also expressed concern over the effect of inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children and strongly supported efforts to end the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children.
- 29.** Finally the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to continue advancing global health issues in the broader United Nations framework and beyond, in particular by maintaining and utilizing the item “Global Health and Foreign Policy” on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly.