Do we need global organization of Public Health?

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From Geneva to the City by the Bay
The World Federation of Public Health Associations

- Founded in 1967 during the 20th World Health Assembly
- Umbrella organization of multidisciplinary national public health associations
- The WFPHA is accredited as an NGO in official relations with WHO
- The Federation also holds consultation status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
WFPHA’s mission

To promote and protect global public health by:

• supporting the development of PH associations and societies and the establishment of regional federations;

• facilitating and supporting the exchange of information, knowledge and transfer of skills;

• undertaking advocacy for public policies, programs and practices at the supra-territorial level
Global Public Health at a turning point

New Global Public Health: why?

• Increasing number of partners in global public health with dispersed legitimacy (ex.: AIDS-related NGOs > 60,000 in 2007)

• Reconfiguration of power in health governance (ex.: G8, NGOs, CSOs, geopolitical transition)

• Increasing interdependency in the norm-setting (ex.: intellectual property and health)
Global Health has seen:

- Expansion of actors and activities
- Inequality of access around the world
- Globalization of lifestyles
- The Health sector is one of the biggest industries worldwide
- Health is crucial to (political) stability
- A new need for coherence and coordination is recognized
Bozorgmehr, 2010
Members survey 2011: Results

Top 5 topics on the global health agenda

- Health policy development: 65%
- Public Health Education: 58%
- Health Services Evaluation: 52%
- Tobacco use: 52%
- Health systems reform: 48%
WHO reform and NGOs

• WFPHA takes part in the discussion process
• WFPHA puts forward:
  1. WHO should link new health actors to the established intergovernmental system
  2. WFPHA also advocates for engagement with non-health actors that can influence health
  3. WFPHA underlines that the WHO is the only global health actor with formal-legal legitimacy
WFPHA collaboration plan with WHO

• An approach to the definition of (global) public health in the new landscape (actors, responsibilities, legitimacy);

• Side event at the up-coming World Health Assembly will promote the discussion;

• This work should be finalized by 2015 and be part of the 14th WFPHA World Congress in Kolkata, India.
Member survey 2012

Main expectations from the WFPHA

- Giving PHAs more visibility: 84%
- Collaborating with large international health agencies: 84%
- Creating common projects in PH: 71%
- Attending international PH meetings: 61%
- Forging partnerships with other national PHAs and health agencies: 58%
The 1st Arab World Conference on Public Health

Dubai, UAE, 4 - 6 April 2013
1\textsuperscript{st} Arab World Public Health Conference

• Important part of the world with political changes;
• Public health needs to be strengthened especially in this part of the world;
• Networked global health governance using perhaps a “minilateralistic” approach.
JOINTLY OPENING CEREMONY 1ST WPRCPH

Beijing, October 26-29, 2009

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13th World Congress on Public Health

April 23-27 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
“Towards Global Health Equity: Opportunities and Threats”
http://www.etpha.org/2012/
Daily Bulletin April 23, 2012 Bulletin #1

Public health students IFMSA

NEWSLETTER: www_wfpha.org/online-newsletter/items/wfpha-newsletter-july-2012.html
AFRICAN FEDERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS

Secretariat of AFPHA
c/o Ethiopian Public Health Association
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

President: Dr. Mathias Some (Burkina Faso)
Vice president: Dr Flavia Senkubuge (South Africa)
Secretary : Dr. Tewabech Bishaw (Ethiopia)
Help PH actors join forces

• Creation of an oral public health working group as example

1. Oral Health mainly underestimated in its role for PH – PH has not “visualized” oral health

2. Enormous achievements for the health of people by using relatively little resources if the two sectors would interact more
Summary

WFPHA as an umbrella organization serves its members by:

• Advocating PH at the different but most importantly at the supra-territorial level;

• Creating links among PH associations by the establishment of regional associations, by getting actors of PH work closer together;

• Working on a networked global health governance including the multiple non-state stakeholders with transparency.
• Public Health actors such as G7/G8 or OECD or for the emerging economies IBSA, charities and BINGOs, PINGOs, CONGOs, ...are not (officially) connected to the established state-owned PH system.

• Their actions are not necessarily transparent, there is no democratic control or guidance.

• A global organization is urgently needed.
Thank you for your attention!

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