

The M8 Alliance Declaration World Health Summit 2016

This year's World Health Summit (WHS) took place in a political context of great hope and serious alarm. Immense strides were made at the UN General Assembly, the World Health Assembly of the WHO, as well as at G7 and G20 meetings to strengthen commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals and to global health action. The right of all people to Universal Health Coverage has been forcefully endorsed. But at the same time the plight of millions of people on the move, the predicament of refugees and the unacceptable destruction of health facilities, clearly showed the limits of humanitarian and global health action in the face of lack of political will to ensure human rights, peace and security.

The past year has reinforced that **we must face the health challenges set by a global risk society collectively**: the challenge of antimicrobial resistance has been likened to climate change; the Ebola crisis has been followed by severe Zika and yellow fever outbreaks and there is increasing concern that the target of polio eradication might not be reached on time.

Crisis is a key determinant of health - be it war, insecurity, ecological or financial. Around the world, 130 million people need humanitarian aid, more than 60 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes, the global migration and refugee movement shows no sign of abating and many countries are still burdened with the health consequences of austerity. A new mix of health inequity, humanitarian, ecological and security challenges has emerged which confronts us with the limits of existing systems. Donor countries are stretched to keep their global commitments as pressure increases at home to set new priorities and cut development aid. Terrorist attacks all around the world have increased a general feeling of insecurity and have led to protectionist responses. This raises basic questions about global solidarity in a world of great wealth.

We, the members of the M8 Alliance, call on heads of state and government to invest in people and to ensure that no one is left behind. Following the discussion at this year's World Health Summit, action in five key central areas of global health is mandatory:

- 1. Empowerment of Women and Girls**
- 2. Right to Health of Refugees and Migrants**
- 3. Resilience and Global Health Security**
- 4. Antimicrobial Resistance**
- 5. Investment in Research, Development and Health Innovation**

1. Empowerment of Women and Girls

There can be no progress in global health without addressing the health, education and empowerment of women and girls. Healthy women and girls create measurably healthier and more productive communities - advancing gender equality could add \$12 trillion to global GDP by 2025. It is a priority to support all women, especially the most marginalized, reach their full potential at every stage of life. This includes equal access to health care, sexual health and rights, improving reproductive health, safer births and newborn care, preventing and treating infectious as well as chronic diseases and addressing ageing. It also requires applying a gender lens to all health issues.

Call for Action: The M8 Alliance calls for supporting policies which increase women's control of their life choices and ensure their bodily integrity. This includes the right of women to modern family planning and safe abortion. We recognize that progress has been achieved for women over the past decades but that in many countries the reality on the ground continues to fall short. The main determinants of women's health are not being addressed appropriately by governments. We are particularly concerned about the ongoing epidemic of gender-based violence. We also call for a greater recognition of the contribution of women as paid and unpaid health workers and see a clear need to address the global care chain in the context of health worker migration.

2. Right to Health of Refugees and Migrants

Global health still fails the most vulnerable: populations in fragile states, victims of war, refugees, asylum seekers, trafficked populations, people in forced labour, slaves and global migrant workers. We must reinforce that refugees and migrants have the same universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to health. Our approaches to global health must integrate people's movements as a key determinant of health and we must develop strategies that can respond to the diversity of people on the move, as well as their needs.

Call for Action: The M8 Alliance calls for a welcoming of the outcome of the first UN Summit on large movements of refugees and migrants in 2016 which committed to the safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and reinforced the legal frameworks for refugees. The response framework that has been developed will guide further action, also in health. It reinforced that everyone has the right under international law to the highest standards of physical and mental health. It has also highlighted the need for equity and access. We underline the need to monitor the follow up to these commitments and to ensure the full accountability of UN organizations, humanitarian actors and nation states.

3. Resilience and Global Health Security

Significant activity to improve prevention, detection and response time to outbreaks has been underway around the world following the Ebola crisis. We welcome the many actions and initiatives to build health resilience, including the new WHO Health Emergencies Programme, the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS), the launching of the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF), the support to the Ebola affected countries in building their health systems. The continuing concern of the G7, the G20 and the UN will be critical to establish a global system of preparedness and response and secure sustainable financing for work on health crisis and to invest in UHC. This includes ongoing attention to other public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC) such as polio and Zika.

Call for Action: The M8 Alliance calls on all countries and development partners to ensure the full implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) capacities. We encourage all countries to engage in table top and simulation exercises to test gaps in capacity and to do this in full cooperation of many sectors. Health systems must be strengthened, professionals trained and communities fully involved. Mechanisms for accountability to the global community - though reliable, independent and external evaluations - must be established. This includes the commitment to ensure the last phase of polio eradication and the transition of its assets into country health systems.

4. Antimicrobial Resistance

At the United Nations General Assembly this year the heads of state and government acknowledged that the resistance of bacterial, viral, parasitic and fungal microorganisms to antimicrobial medicines is the greatest and most urgent global risk, requiring increased attention and coherence at the international, national regional levels. Following the recommendations of the WHO they have called for a global development and stewardship framework which brings together the many stakeholders - from health, agriculture, food, animal health, development banks, UN agencies - to address the enormous challenge to human kinds. The M8 Alliance will work hard to bring about implementation of a multi stakeholder approach in the development and implementation of national, regional and global alliances and strategies to address AMR.

Call for Action: The M8 Alliance calls for an endorsement of the political declaration on antimicrobial resistance and the WHO action plan on AMR. In particular we support a significant research and development effort on new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines and diagnostics, including innovation models. We further call for determined action on implementing the ONEHEALTH approach to fight AMR and we reinforce the need to ensure access and affordability. All health care institutions and professions must do their utmost to fight antimicrobial resistance.

5. Investment in Research, Development and Health Innovation.

We must harness the enormous potential of science to better meet the urgent global health needs. A stronger focus on translational research can help turn early-stage innovations into new health products, advancing the innovation to the point where it becomes attractive for further development by the medical industry or healthcare agencies. Many new discoveries have the potential to improve health, but turning those ideas into deliverable products can prove extremely difficult. We require a stronger focus on the cooperation between public and private sector and between basic scientists, clinical researchers, clinicians and patients to drive novel observations about the nature and progression of disease that often stimulate basic investigations. This requires new incentives, innovative funding streams and new solutions to challenges in relation to intellectual property, as has been outlined in the report of the UNSG High Level Panel on Access to Medicines issued this September 2016.

Call for Action: The M8 Alliance calls for cross-sectoral contribution to developing strategies in translational research, securing the translation of results from clinical studies into everyday clinical practice and health decision making, while ensuring that new treatments and research knowledge actually reach the patients or populations for whom they are intended. We also commit to ensuring patients participation in such developments. The M8 Alliance will promote the effective translation of the new knowledge, mechanisms, and techniques generated by advances in basic science research into new approaches for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease, so that the essential goal of improving health from bench to bedside can be reached. We understand that this will require new forms of cooperation between the public and the private sector.

The M8 Alliance reinforces that the challenges facing global health have become too numerous and too complex for a business as usual approach. We will continue to give all our efforts to engage actors at all levels and from all sectors to move this agenda forward.



World Health Summit:

The World Health Summit (WHS) is one of the world's most prominent strategic forums for global health. The interdisciplinary, international event takes place within an atmosphere of academic freedom.

Every October, internationally renowned leaders and representatives from the sciences, politics, business, and civil society travel to Berlin for the WHS to discuss the latest challenges facing medical research and healthcare. Under the high patronage of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President François Hollande and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, the World Health Summit is the premiere international platform for exploring strategic developments and decisions in the area of healthcare.

M8 Alliance:

The M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies is a collaborative network of academic institutions known for its educational and research excellence. The network was founded in 2009 at the inaugural World Health Summit, and has provided an outstanding academic foundation to every WHS event since.

The M8 Alliance currently has 23 members based in 16 different countries, all of which are committed to improving global health and working with political and economic decision-makers to develop science-based solutions to health challenges worldwide.

The M8 Alliance promotes the bench to bedside to population health translation of research, as well as the transformation of current medical care approaches to treating the ill by creating healthcare systems aimed at the effective prevention of disease. The organization also works to adapt health-related solutions to rapidly changing living conditions through research in priority areas, especially shifting demographics, urbanization, and climate change.