

Open Statement of Solidarity with World Health Organization [WHO/OMS]

June 2020

We – the signatory organizations and individuals below – join together to express our solidarity with the World Health Organization [WHO/OMS] during this extraordinary time.

This is a time when the global community faces three parallel Public Health Emergencies of International Concern [COVID-19, Ebola, poliovirus] amid a full spectrum of continuing health challenges. It is a time of wavering global public trust and confidence in our multilateral institutions including health-oriented agencies.

It is a time of member state bullying and troubling accusations about the fundamental integrity of WHO. It is a time of threats of punitive action in withholding member state financial support which may compromise WHO's ability to perform against its mandate and global need. And while the behaviour of the United States in these regards has been the most explicit — and certainly the most thetic—it is certainly not alone.

Equally, it is a time when WHO does face continuing challenges in its governance, its programmatic focus, its operational efficiencies, and in other areas of performance. We recognize that key policy instruments including the IHR [International Health Regulations] need important strengthening, fresh commitment, and mechanisms of enforcement to be fully effective. Clearly, there is much work ahead.

But we hold that if, in 1948, WHO had *not* been formed, we would, indeed, *need* to form such an organization today...and that it would be well-informed by the opening principles adopted over 70 years ago in WHO's founding constitution:

:: Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity.

:: The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

:: The health of all people is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent on the fullest cooperation of individual and states...

Clearly, our solidarity is not just with WHO as an organization – it is directly with the 7,000+ WHO staff working in 150+ countries, and the thousands more volunteer scientists, researchers, public health experts and many others in the policy, ethics and legal fields that inform and enable WHO's critical health work.

Finally, our solidarity leads us to challenge member states to remain steadfast in their support of and engagement with WHO; to challenge the global community of multilateral institutions, NGOs and civil society organizations to strengthen their collaboration with WHO, and to challenge ourselves and our institutions to translate our solidarity into direct action – accelerating our contributions of expertise and energies to forward WHO's mission and global health overall.

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This Statement is currently in translation to all WHO official languages and will be posted shortly at <http://www.ge2p2.org/>

SIGNATORIES [list in early formation]

If you would like to add your name as a signatory, [please use this link](#). If you would like to add your institution's name, or have any other questions, please contact david.r.curry@ge2p2global.org

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GE2P2 Global Foundation
Philadelphia, USA

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June 2020
[draft at 5 June 2020]

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Equally, this is a time when WHO does face continuing challenges in its governance, its programmatic focus, its operational efficiencies, and in other areas of performance. We recognize that key policy instruments including the IHR [International Health Regulations] need important strengthening, fresh commitment, and mechanisms of enforcement to be fully effective. Clearly, there is much work ahead.

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As important, our solidarity is not just with WHO as an organization – it is directly with the 7,000+ WHO staff working in 150+ countries, and the thousands more volunteer scientists, researchers, public health experts and many others in the policy, ethics and legal fields that inform and enable WHO's critical health work.

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SIGNATORIES

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