

**International Health Partnership and related Initiatives (IHP+)
Civil Society Forum
Geneva
23 May 2008**

Proposed Way Forward

I. Introduction

By working towards meaningful coordination and consultation with Civil Society, it is hoped that IHP+ will be able to capitalize on the core strengths and comparative advantages of all parties involved in order to achieve increased aid effectiveness for better and sustainable health outcomes and outputs. Active consultations with civil society have been ongoing since February 2008, including the development and discussion of a concept note for engagement of civil society in the IHP+ process.

Over 80 representatives from a broad range of civil society, particularly southern CSOs from IHP+ countries, met in Geneva on May 23, 2008 to discuss mechanisms of engagement in IHP+ processes, criteria for convening a representative group of individual members of civil society to represent a broad group of CSO stakeholders at the global and country level, and country-level implementation of the IHP+. The objectives were to:

- To clarify IHP+ objectives, provide an update on progress to date including compact development
- To clarify rationale, roles and responsibilities of CS representation in IHP+ structures
- To identify good models of CS engagement and outline clear next steps for the formation of an IHP+ Civil Society Consultative Group and selection of CS representation on the SuRG.
- To understand what CS engagement has been in IHP+ signatory countries and challenges to meaningful and adequate engagement at the country level and outline clear next steps for facilitating and deepening CS engagement at the country level.
- To understand objectives, mandate and composition of IHP+ working groups and outline clear next steps for selection of CS representatives in working groups
- To clarify donor commitment to fill financing gaps identified by countries

II. The Way Forward – Commitments and Next Steps

Civil Society representatives stated their investment in the IHP+ process. IHP+ expressed its commitment to ensuring meaningful engagement of civil society and formally stated its support of civil society as a full partner in the IHP+ process.

The following sections describe key outcomes and next steps agreed during the Civil Society Forum.

- 1) **There is no formal voting mechanism within the IHP+, but Civil Society will have a full voice in all IHP+ discussions/decision making processes.**
 - a) The business SuRG will include one northern and one southern member of Civil Society.
 - b) The steering SuRG will include one northern and one southern member of Civil Society.
 - c) Thematic working groups will include one member of Civil Society.
 - d) A consultative group will include approximately 12 members of Civil Society.
 - e) *Development partners* will work to promote and ensure meaningful engagement of civil society at the country level.

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- i) IHP+ will help to strengthen the capacity and voice of Civil Society at the country level.
 - (1) IHP+ will strategically target Civil Society and plan country level consultations.
 - (2) IHP+ will discuss mechanisms for funding country level Civil Society participation
 - ii) *Civil Society* will work to strengthen networks and communications at the global and country levels.
 - (1) *Civil Society* will submit draft guidance on CS engagement at country level to Core Team and SuRG for feedback by June 20
 - (2) *Civil Society* participants in the forum will report forum outcomes to their colleagues and strategize on future engagement in the IHP+ at the global and country levels.
 - (3) *Civil Society* will define who will lead the process at the country level and if/how a CSO network can be created and sustained at the country level.
 - f) *Civil Society* will develop an open and transparent mechanism of self-selecting representation in the SuRG (business and steering), thematic working groups, and consultative group.
 - i) Selection processes will be defined by mid-June 2008.
 - ii) Selection will be completed by the end of July 2008 (TBC).
 - g) IHP+ will facilitate additional financing for civil society engagement.
 - i) *Civil Society* will propose costed budgets for participation in the SuRG, working groups, and the consultative group by the end of June 2008.
 - ii) *The steering SuRG* will evaluate proposal for financial support and respond by the end of July 2008.
 - iii) *The steering SuRG* will review the proposed budget and determine financing mechanisms (date TBC).
 - h) *Civil Society* representatives will serve as delegates of the broader CSO community, to whom they will be responsible and accountable.
- 2) Coordination and communication between IHP+ and Civil Society will be strengthened.**
- a) IHP+ will make all documents (budgets, plans, etc.) transparent at global and country levels. Documents will be available via the IHP+ website.
 - b) IHP+ and *Civil Society* representative will report on the Civil Society Forum at the next SuRG, early June 2008.
 - c) IHP+ will revise and circulate a revised Concept Note on CSO Engagement in the IHP+ Process by the end of June 2008.
- 3) Civil Society needs to identify constraints and capacity building needs to be supported at the country-level.**
- a) *Civil Society* needs to define constraints and real tasks, such as improving financial management systems, budget tracking abilities, governance/accountability assessment, etc.
 - b) IHP+ will work with *Civil Society* to facilitate capacity building in identified areas.
- 4) Health systems strengthening and priority disease programs are both needed to make progress to achieving the health-related MDGs.**
- a) Wherever “vertical” versus “horizontal” debates occur, IHP+ and *Civil Society* will issue joint statements clarifying that the vertical-horizontal debate is not useful and underlining the need for comprehensive health services and financing.
- 5) Financing gaps will be met by development partners.**
- a) IHP+ needs to reinforce the message that additional funds will be available in order to support development of robust country health plans and budgets.

III. Monitoring of the Way Forward.

The IHP+ Core Team and IHP+ *Civil Society* representatives will jointly prepare timelines, which will be reassessed and updated at monthly meetings of the SuRG. Progress on IHP+ engagement with *Civil Society* can also be monitored by the IHP+ website’s page on *Civil Society*.

IV. Report of Civil Society Forum.

A draft report will be available by mid-June. This will then be used to communicate the way forward and commitments made from all stakeholders. Presentations given at the forum will be available on the IHP+ website's page on Civil Society.

V. Participating in the IHP+ as a Civil Society Organization or Representative.

For more information on how to engage in IHP+ Civil Society discussions, please contact Nicole Klingen (nklingen@worldbank.org) or Kate Krackenberger (kkrackenbegrer@worldbank.org).

VI. Joining the IHP+.

For more information on how to sign up to the International Health Partnership, please send an email to Bob Fryatt (fryattr@who.int), Nicole Klingen (nklingen@worldbank.org) or Rudolf Knippenberg (rknippenberg@unicef.org).