

Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum

The Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum is hosted by the Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance, Oxfam, and the Commonwealth Foundation in conjunction with the annual Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting.

Saturday 19 May 2018
15:00–18:30

Room: Geneva 1
Starling Hotel
Geneva, Switzerland



Everyone agrees universal health coverage is a good thing. Governments have committed to UHC as part of the sustainable development goals. But UHC cannot be achieved without sustainable financing, a sufficient health workforce, and equitable access to safe, quality, and affordable medicines for every citizen. Eminent speakers will examine universal health coverage from the perspectives of financing, health workforce, and access to medicines, and ask how civil society can hold countries to account on universal health coverage.

EMINENT SPEAKERS WILL EXAMINE

UHC AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

- What is UHC and how do you measure progress toward achievement?
- What are the different financing options for UHC?
- How can countries be held to account in the provision of UHC?

UHC AND A SUFFICIENT HEALTH WORKFORCE

- What are the health workforce challenges for Commonwealth countries in achieving UHC?
- What is the health workforce needed into the future to achieve and support UHC?
- How do countries achieve the health workforce they need to implement and sustain UHC?

UHC AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO QUALITY MEDICINES

- How can countries address the challenges and find solutions to providing access to safe, effective and quality essential medicines and vaccines for all?
- How can countries implement the flexibilities outlined in the WHO TRIPS* agreement to make medicines and vaccines affordable for governments and individuals?
- How can new models of financing research and development based on de-linking financing from pricing be developed?



* (TRIPS – Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)

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Time	Session	Presenters
14:45–15:00	Registration and welcome refreshments	
15:00–15:10	Chair welcome remarks and introductions	Mr Anton Ofield–Kerr, Director, Equal International; Deputy Chair, Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance
15:10–15:40	UHC and sustainable financing	Dr Joseph Kutzin, Coordinator, Health Financing Policy, World Health Organisation Professor Tony Nelson, Department of Paediatrics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Secretary, Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance
15:40–15:50	Discussion	Facilitated by the Chair
15:50–16:35	UHC and a sufficient health workforce	Dr Jim Campbell, Director, Health Workforce Department, World Health Organisation; Executive Director, Global Health Workforce Alliance Professor James Buchan, Queen Margaret University Edinburgh Dr Mohga Kamal–Yanni, Senior Health Policy Adviser, Oxfam
16:35–16:45	Discussion	Facilitated by the Chair
16:45–17:15	UHC and equitable access to quality medicines	Ms Sangeeta Shashikant, Coordinator, Development and Intellectual Property Program, Third World Network Ms Salomé Meyer, Project Manager, Access to Medicine Campaign, Cancer Alliance South Africa
17:15–17:25	Discussion	Facilitated by the Chair
17:25–17:35	Presentation key recommendations	Ms Jill Iliffe, Executive Secretary, Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation; Treasurer, Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance
17:35–18:15	Plenary and panel discussion	Facilitated by: Dr Vajira Dissanayake, President, Commonwealth Medical Association, President Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka
18:15–18:30	Closing remarks from the Chair	

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Invited Speakers



DR JOSEPH KUTZIN is Coordinator, Health Financing Policy, at the World Health Organization. He is a health economist with over 30 years' experience in health financing policy and health system reform, working in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Europe. He has been with WHO for over 20 years, serving in Headquarters, in Kyrgyzstan as policy advisor to the Ministry of Health, and in Copenhagen and Barcelona as the European Region's Advisor on Health Financing. He was a contributor to the World Health Report 2010 on financing for universal coverage, and has published numerous conceptual and empirical articles on health financing and universal coverage, including a book on the financing of public hospitals that he co-authored while working at the World Bank. Much of his recent work, and that of his team, focuses on issues of mis-alignment between health financing and public sector financial management.



PROFESSOR TONY NELSON, Department of Paediatrics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Tony Nelson is a Professor in Paediatrics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He has clinical, research and teaching experience in a range of developed and developing countries. He has a strong commitment to global child health with research interests spanning vaccines, diarrhoeal and respiratory disease surveillance, obesity, breastfeeding promotion and sudden infant death syndrome. He has undertaken Phase I/II and Phase III vaccine studies for rotavirus, seasonal influenza, avian influenza, herpes zoster and human papilloma virus. During his career he has developed working relationships with World Health Organization; International Vaccine Institute; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health). Currently as a member of the ROTA Council he is focusing on providing policymakers with the scientific and technical evidence needed to accelerate the introduction of rotavirus and other vaccines into National Immunization Programmes.



DR JIM CAMPBELL is Director of Health Workforce, World Health Organisation, and Executive Director of the Global Health Workforce Alliance. Jim's role at WHO has included the development of WHO's Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 for submission to the 69th World Health Assembly, and ongoing support to the United Nations Secretary General's High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth. Jim has extensive experience in senior management roles in the WHO with a focus on human resources for health (HRH) and is widely recognised as a keen advocate and champion of HRH issues. Jim's expertise and experience with human resources for health extends over several decades. Jim was previously a Director with the Institute of Social Cooperation, and a consultant for the UK Department for International Development.



PROFESSOR JAMES BUCHAN (MA (hons), PhD, DPM) has specialized in health workforce policy and analysis throughout his career. His background includes periods as a senior Human Resources for Health (HRH) manager in the National Health Service in Scotland; senior policy analyst at the Royal College of Nursing, (RCN), UK; and as a specialist adviser to Health Workforce Australia, a federal government agency. Most recently he has completed a contract as Senior Adviser – Human Resources for Health, WHO European Region. He has worked extensively as a policy researcher and consultant on HRH issues in Europe, Asia and the Pacific. He is Editor in Chief of Human Resources for Health, a peer review journal. He was also a Harkness Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania.

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DR MOHGA KAMAL-YANNI is a Senior Health and HIV Policy Adviser in Oxfam based in the UK. A medical doctor by training, Mohga has extensive experience of health policy and programming in developing countries. She has written policy papers, published articles and made presentations on health issues such as financing health care, access to medicines, non-communicable diseases, gender and health, and HIV and AIDS. A previous NGO board member of UNITAID, Mohga is currently a special adviser to civil society on UNITAID. She also represents NGOs on the Market Dynamic Committee of the Global Fund and is a member of the World Bank Civil Society Consultation Group. Mohga holds an MPhil in Primary Health Care and was awarded an MBE in 2009.



MS SANGEETA SHASHIKANT is the Coordinator of the Development and Intellectual Property Program for the Third World Network, a research and advocacy organization based in Malaysia. She has extensive experience in research and advocacy on issues concerning intellectual property, access to medicines, and public policy matters at the national, regional and international levels. She also monitors and analyses global developments on intellectual property and has authored numerous publications on the subject. Sangeeta is President of the Board of Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES). Sangeeta will speak on the experience of Asian countries in promoting access to medicines.



MS SALOMÉ MEYER is involved in community initiatives in relation to cancer care. A social worker by training, Salomé is currently Project Manager for the Access to Medicine Campaign for Cancer Alliance in South Africa. The Access to medicines campaign strives for equitable access for eight Priority Medicines identified from the 24 Cancer Medicines report. Salomé is also a member of Fix the Patent Law Coalition, which is made up of 36 patient groups and civil society organisations representing people affected by most major diseases in South Africa and has been critical in progress towards strengthening South Africa intellectual property law to improve access to medicines.

Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance (CHPA)

The CHPA is an alliance of Commonwealth health professional associations. Members of the CHPA consider that by working together they can more efficiently and effectively represent and support health professionals in Commonwealth countries and promote high standards of care and equity in access to care for Commonwealth peoples.

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability

Commonwealth Association for Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition

Commonwealth Dental Association

Commonwealth HIV and AIDS Action Group

Commonwealth Medical Association

Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation

Commonwealth Pharmacists Association