



SHEM HIGHLIGHTS

WHO Executive Board Endorses Global Health and Peace Initiative

Chiamo Seraphine

The World Health Organization (WHO) has always included in its mandate the imperative to connect health and peace, as stated in the preamble to its Constitution. This commitment has been demonstrated through previous international interventions it has championed, such as the 'Health as a Bridge for Peace' concept in the 1990s and 2000s. Building upon this historical foundation, the Global Health and Peace Initiative (GHPI) was launched in 2019 with the support of Switzerland and Oman. The initiative aims to reinforce WHO's mandate in this critical area.

During the 154 WHO Executive Board Meeting, discussions were generally amicable, with calls for further consultations and support for resource mobilization. While states like Maldives underscored the importance of capacity building on ethical issues to foster trust in the initiative, Brazil, China, and others reiterated the principle of state sovereignty and again cautioned against the politicization and securitization of health, as well as external influences on WHO. Cameroon, which helped to pilot GHPI, representing 47 African countries, called for increased awareness and adoption of the initiative by other states, along with equitable resource mobilization and financing. On the other hand, France highlighted that the current document failed to fully recognize climate change as a driver of conflicts, particularly through its impact on food insecurity and forced migration. Ultimately, a draft decision outlining timelines was adopted.

Recognizing the WHO's unique position as one of the few international bodies trusted for its neutrality in conflict situations, the WHO Secretariat reassured countries that the primary objective of the initiative was to prevent further attacks on healthcare infrastructure during armed conflicts. [Read more here.](#)

GLOBAL HEALTH AND PEACE INITIATIVE

[Health and Peace: The Future of International Emergency Health Responses during Violent Conflict](#)

[Endorsement of New WHO Health and Peace Initiative Offers Bright Spot in Dark Horizons of Conflict](#)

[WHO's Global Health & Peace Initiative: Political or Diplomatic?](#)



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News from the field

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE: THE CHALLENGE LIES IN CONSTRUCTING IT AMID WARS AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The event "The G20 and Civil Society", organized by the [BRICS Policy Center](#), presented some challenges faced by the [Civil 20 \(C20\)](#), which is an Engagement Group of the G20 created in 2013 to ensure that world leaders listen to the recommendations and demands of civil society. These challenges were presented in preparation for [the G20 edition taking place in Brazil](#). Key challenges include: i) aligning engagement groups for impactful proposals in the final summit document; ii) addressing international issues without overshadowing national concerns; iii) monitoring non-binding G20 recommendations without a transparent accountability mechanism. In other front, [the World Medical Association](#) expressed concern for the humanitarian situation in Gaza, emphasizing medical neutrality and condemning violations of international humanitarian laws, especially those affecting civilians, including children. [OXFAM](#) highlighted the challenges faced by those displaced in Gaza due to bombings, and the lack of proper shelter, food, and water. [STOPAIDS](#) warned of rising malaria due to conflicts and climate change. [Greenpeace](#) criticized the fossil fuel trade benefiting the top 1% and highlighted China's contradiction in pursuing common prosperity while allowing coal exploitation, worsening climate crises and inequalities. Continue reading [here](#)

VIDEO

[Global demographic and epidemiological panorama](#)

PODCAST

[Why don't the rules of war protect health care workers and facilities in Gaza?](#)

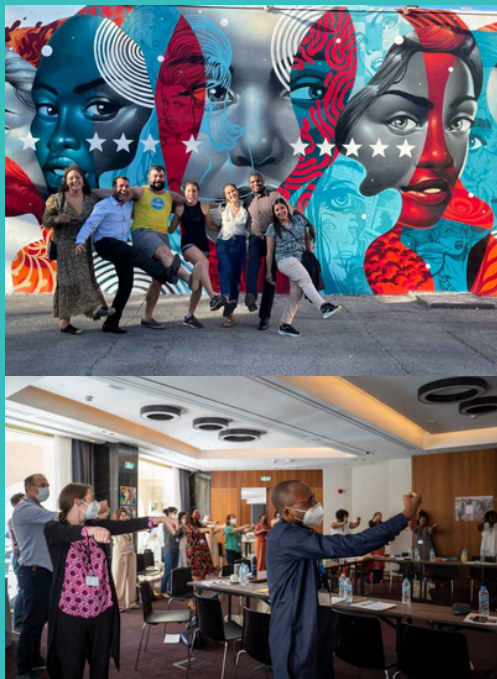
ARTICLE

[Climate Change & Just Energy Transition: What the North Can Learn from the South?](#)

REPORT

[Operational framework for monitoring social determinants of health equity](#)

ENDEAVOURS: Application now open for 2025 Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity



The Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity fellowship program develops global leaders who understand the foundations of health inequity and have the knowledge, skills and courage to build more equitable organizations and communities.

Fellows will be selected based on demonstrated commitment in the area of health equity and leadership potential. The program will build and support a group of global, multidisciplinary leaders equipped with the technical knowledge, skills and network to advance health equity in their organizations and communities. Application closes in **April 11, 2024**.

Join the informational webinar on **Mar 21, 2024** to learn about the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity application process and fellowship experience. Register [here](#).

[Apply here](#)

POINT OF VIEW

READ SHEM MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Assessing the Human Health Benefits of Climate Mitigation, Pollution, Prevention, and Biodiversity Preservation

PHILIP J. LANDRIGAN AND COLS.

The planetary commons: A new paradigm for safeguarding Earth-regulating systems in the Anthropocene

JOHAN ROCKSTRÖM AND COLS.

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[SustainableHealthEquity](https://SustainableHealthEquity.org)

At SHEM we link citizens, public health and healthcare advocates, scientists, academics, and related institutions from all regions, cultures, and ideologies pursuing the universal right to health. We aim to promote sustainable health equity as an ethical principle that guides all national and international economic, social, and environmental policies.

SHEM's Highlights Curators: Andre Luis Sales, Diana Zeballos, Gustavo Buss

HEALTH DIPLOMACY

THE INNOVATION PORTFOLIO OF FIOCRUZ

Intending to establish international partnerships for the development and production of technologies, Fiocruz launched the English version of its Innovation Portfolio. The Innovation Portfolio is Fiocruz's fundamental tool for seeking out national and international partners interested in developing and licensing products that benefit society.

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