



SHEM HIGHLIGHTS



WHO creates a Civil Society Commission to promote faster Global Health Progress

On August 24, 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially launched the WHO Civil Society Commission and convened its inaugural Steering Committee meeting in Geneva. This groundbreaking initiative marks a significant step forward in facilitating structured and systematic communication between civil society and WHO regarding health priorities and related matters.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have a storied history of influencing positive change in public health. While WHO has a longstanding tradition of collaborating with CSOs. The establishment of the Commission elevates this partnership to new heights.

The Commission's primary mission is to enhance dialogue and foster collaboration among CSOs, as well as with WHO, at all levels—global, regional, and national. Its overarching goal is to contribute recommendations that will aid WHO in its engagement efforts, aligning with universal health coverage (health for all) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Over 350 organizations have applied to join the Commission, with 120 already accepted as members, demonstrating the widespread confidence in this initiative. [Read more here.](#)

**ALL YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT THIS
INITIATIVE**

[Watch WHO Director-General Dr Tedros launching the WHO Civil Society Commission](#)

[Read the terms of Reference for the Civil Society Commission](#)

[Discover the current participants of the WHO Civil Society Commission](#)

[Apply to the WHO Civil Society Commission Participation](#)



SHEM HIGHLIGHTS



Photos by iStock/smartboy10, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine/Foundation for European Progressive Studies

News from the field

THOSE WHO DIDN'T LIGHT THE FIRE ARE THE ONES FEELING THE HEAT

Many civil society organizations expressed their support for humanitarian aid actions, particularly for the victims of the earthquake in Morocco and the storm in Libya. [ActionAid](#) expressed solidarity with the earthquake-affected communities in Morocco and called for support for the affected regions. [CARE International](#) disclosed its efforts in response to the earthquake impacts and the urgent need to prioritize shelters for earthquake survivors before winter. Together with the [People's Health Movement](#), [CARE International](#) expressed its solidarity with the Libyan people and urged the international community to provide the necessary assistance to rescue survivors and rebuild the communities in the affected areas. The [OXFAM](#) addressed the climate effects in countries like [Malawi](#) and [East Africa](#), highlighting that the contribution of the most affected counties to the crisis is low, and called for the largest [polluters](#) to pay for the damage caused. Special attention was given to the lack of water in [North Africa](#), [Ethiopia](#), and [Kenya](#). The [Global Fund](#), [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), and the [Rockefeller Foundation](#) reported their participation in the Africa Climate Summit. The [People's Vaccine Alliance](#) celebrated the news that three organizations shared vaccine production technology with the WHO's C-TAP (COVID-19 Technology Access Pool), emphasizing that it is a victory for scientific collaboration and human rights, as well as a significant step toward the goal of vaccines for all.

On another front, the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) mobilized various civil society organizations during this month... (keep reading [here](#)).

VIDEOS

[Have the Sustainable Development Goals lost their aspirational force?](#)

PODCAST

[What did we learn at the 78th UN General Assembly?](#)

ARTICLE

[Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries](#)

ENDEAVOURS



The Health Data Governance Principles bring a human rights and equity lens to the use of data within and across health systems. They are oriented towards supporting sustainable and resilient public health systems that can deliver Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The Principles are intended as a resource for and have applicability to, a range of stakeholders involved in the collection and use of health data, including governments, the private sector, international organizations, and civil society, among others. We encourage all stakeholders to endorse the Principles.

We want to see the Principles adopted by governments, technology companies, and other institutions responsible for collecting and managing health data.

[Read more](#)

POINT OF VIEW

READ SHEM MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Can the wealthy humble themselves enough to be honest and fair?

Dr. Juan Garay

Who lives and who dies in the world's next pandemic should not depend on where they live.

Sir Michael Marmot

The UN General Assembly 2023: The urgency of compromise on financing for development

Center on International Cooperation (CIC)

JOIN SHEM

sustainablehealthequity.org

shequitymov

SustainableHealthEquity

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.