

Message from Youth Delegates on Health Promotion and Sustainable Development
WHO 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion
Shanghai, China
November 21-24, 2016

Preamble

We, the youth participants of the World Health Organization 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion, held from the 21st to the 24th of November of 2016, would like to declare our commitment to promote health sustainably and to the best of our ability as we enter the new global era outlined by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

We recognize that the current Sustainable Development Agenda, which began in 2015, provides us with 17 goals to work toward that affect or are affected by health in a multitude of ways. For this reason, it is imperative that we present this statement as an acknowledgement that the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) will significantly govern the initial part of our engagement and participation in health and development.

Within the current political, economic, and environmental climates that impact our globe, the health of all people must be protected. Thirty years ago in this same month, the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion mapped a way forward for health promotion and provided us with the action means by which health promotion can be realised globally. As future leaders in the fields of global health and development, we are obligated to state our key role in the implementation of these goals and ensure that youth have a voice when it comes to health. It is our opportunities, needs, and choices, that will define the world, not only as we know it, but as we want it, and achieve the SDGs.

We recognize that:

1. Social media and technology are playing an increasing role in today's world, particularly in the fields of global health and health promotion. Not only is it necessary for youth to take the lead as the generation born first into the age of technology, we need to encourage the use of technology in the field of health promotion in order to disseminate information quickly and effectively.
2. There is a gap that exists between generations of health promoters and development workers. In order to work collaboratively towards the Sustainable Development Agenda, we need to bridge the gap by fostering rapport-building, collaboration, and connection between health workers at all stages of their careers.
3. Climate change is becoming one of the direst issues in global health and that all people, including youth, must accept responsibility and take the lead to immediately create sustainable change to halt and reverse the circumstances that are harming the environment. Our careers are beginning in an era already faced with the evidence of the effects of unsustainable ways of living and this issue must be addressed in our work as health promoters.
4. Social movements are increasing in frequency and often involve and are led by youth. It is imperative that we pay attention to the messages these movements are seeking to

promote, particularly with regards to health promotion and their relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Young people have been spearheading change as advocates in the areas that affect them and that their propensity for promoting change has helped make great impact in areas such as maternal, sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV prevention, education, and tobacco control.
6. Advocacy for health and promoting health transcends all stages of ones' career in the health field, thus the impact that a health promotion leader has is not limited by the stage of their career.
7. At any career stage, professional development is important. Many of the opportunities that we receive may not be extended to all youth and early career professionals. Within the health field, we must emphasize inclusiveness so that these activities are no longer based on privilege.

We pledge to:

8. Ensure that our global health promotion activities occur by sustainable means with regards to both tangible and intangible resources.
9. Advocate for youth in the development of sustainable development action means as part of realising that we are the future drivers of the Sustainable Development Agenda.
10. Empower youth recipients of health promotion measures. Many groups within the youth population are marginalized and in need of higher levels of advocacy, particularly while receiving services. This includes youth migrant workers and refugees.
11. Provide youth in our region with the means to express their views on health and sustainable development, bridging the gaps that can be limiting due to age and experience.
12. Encourage volunteerism as a way of involving youth in current health promotion activities around the world. These experiences promote health in communities and individuals as well as provide youth with the opportunity to engage with different sectors and populations.

We strongly encourage:

13. Governments and international organisations to include the youth perspective in future agendas and action means. This is imperative in order to ensure that development goals maintain relevance across generations. While the experiences and education of the authorities in charge of future directions for global health and development will continue to be greatly respected, the views and ideas of youth should be considered at a higher level. We are the future implementers of development agenda.
14. Authorities to directly involve youth in the development of policy that impacts health and development. Currently, opportunities for youth to participate in policy making happens at a level of consultation, rather than direct group work with the entities responsible for

such activities. Youth must be recognised as having the ability and willingness to contribute on an even higher level. To do this, we must have access to information and services as well as be included in processes.

15. Communities to support youth health promoters to provide input into future directions in sustainable development. Encouraging the engagement of the globe's growing number of youth in health promotion work has unlimited potential to strengthen health systems in a way that will aid in the collective achievement of the SDGs.
16. That the driving forces of upward development, including gender equality and education, be recognised as issues primary to youth. We strive to create a world in which all youth can succeed and are given the basic foundations to be able to contemplate the challenges faced in their own community as well as globally. Addressing such issues will allow for the emergence of leaders in global health development, to take us through the agenda to 2030 as well as beyond.
17. Governments and international organisations to provide sustainable, equitable, valuable, and thoughtful professional development opportunities for youth to gain appropriate experience and skills to become stronger and more capable future leaders of health promotion.

It is with this document that we announce our own commitment to health promotion and sustainable development as well as call others to action on issues that concern today's youth. We must strive to bridge the generational gaps that have become glaring in academic and professional environments and work together as health promoters in the age of the Sustainable Development Goals.