Side event with Parliamentarians at the 70th World Health Assembly

Bridging the gap between evidence and health policy: the role of Parliamentarians in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - getting evidence into health policies -

Palais des Nations
Monday 29 May 2017
18:00-19:30
Room VII

Opening remarks:
H.E. Mr Thomas Hajnoczi, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Austria

Mr Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU

Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO

Moderator:
Dr Flavia Bustreo, Assistant Director-General, Family, Women’s and Children’s Health, WHO

Speakers:
Dr Ian Askew, Director Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO

H.E. Ms Bernice Dahn, Minister of Health, Republic of Liberia

Hon. Petra Bayr, Member of Parliament, Austria

H.E. Mr. M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dr Emmanuel Maina, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon

Hon. Pia Locatelli, Member of Parliament, Italy

Ms Unami Jeremiah, Young Women’s Coordinator, World YWCA, and Representative of the PMNCH adolescent and youth constituency

Getting science and evidence into policy is fundamental for the achievement of sustainable development. To integrate evidence into the policy making process, to communicate the research findings to policymakers, and having the evidence translated into policy actions, is a key challenge world-wide. Within the current socio-political situation and the complexity of different sources of information available this is nowadays even more difficult, especially as regards some areas of public health where misconceptions, false myths and faulty information have been widely disseminated.

The development of evidence-informed health policy and programming is not only a technical process of knowledge exchange and translation, but also poses substantial political challenges that require dialogue between health experts and policy makers. Parliamentarians have a key role to play in bridging this gap and ensuring that health laws and policies and their implementation are continuously informed by robust scientific findings.

The aim of the side event is to facilitate the dialogue between Parliamentarians, as key decision-makers, and the global health community. Special emphasis will be placed on health issues that may be undermined by dissemination of inaccurate information and that are being challenged around the world, such as immunization, women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health, including sexual and reproductive health, and climate change and health.

Living a healthy and fulfilling life is a basic human right fundamental to the achievement of the SDGs and Parliamentarians are uniquely placed to prioritize evidence based actions and investments that protect this right for the benefit of all of citizens, wherever they are.

Co-organized by:

For information:
Elisa Scolaro: unicarina@who.int
Aleksandra Blagojevic: ub@iup.org