



Pledge submitted by the World Health Organization to the Human Rights 75 Secretariat
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WHO's contribution to revitalizing the worldwide consensus on human rights:

On this joint 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO), the WHO Secretariat commits to a renewed and vigorous pursuit of health as a fundamental, universal human right. We renew our commitment to the values and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

WHO pledges to work with Member States, the UN family and civil society towards a world where all human rights are fully realized and where health services are available, accessible, acceptable and of good quality for everyone, everywhere, when they need them.

WHO Secretariat commits to concrete action in five areas:

PLEDGE NUMBER 1: Strengthening the integration of human rights into all our work: We pledge to weave human rights into the very fabric of WHO's work at all levels. Recognizing that the right to health is indivisible from all other human rights, we commit to supporting our Member States with strategies that are both gender-responsive and grounded in human rights norms and principles.

PLEDGE NUMBER 2: Building the capacity of WHO workforce: To effectively champion human rights, our workforce must be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge. We therefore pledge to enhance the capacity of WHO staff in the areas of human rights, gender equality and health equity.

PLEDGE NUMBER 3: Promoting engagement with civil society: Recognizing the crucial role of civil society in increasing equitable access to health services and in promoting the right to health, we commit to fostering meaningful engagement with civil society partners, ensuring that our actions are informed by diverse perspectives and grounded in the realities of the communities we serve.

PLEDGE NUMBER 4: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the workplace: Human rights begin at home. We therefore pledge to actively promote diversity, equity and inclusion within the WHO Secretariat. We believe that a diverse and inclusive WHO is better equipped to address the complexities of global health challenges and to promote human rights in the context of health.

PLEDGE NUMBER 5: Ensuring accountability for action: We understand that pledges and promises are only as strong as their implementation. Therefore, every level of WHO, from Country Representatives to Directors at HQ, will be accountable for integrating human rights, gender equality and health equity into their work. We will measure, report and learn from our actions. We also pledge to ensure adequate staffing, budget space and funding for our actions to promote human rights.

These actions have been included in the WHO Secretariat's recently-launched Roadmap on Gender Equality, Human Rights and Health Equity. The Roadmap will act as a beacon for the WHO Secretariat in its work to champion gender equality, human rights and health equity through advocacy and partnerships, capacity building and technical assistance and through collective accountability.