



## INTERNATIONAL WEBINARS AND LIVE EVENTS

### WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY OPEN BRIEFING

Global Health Centre (Graduate Institute) – 14 May 2020

*Jane Alisson - Executive Director for External Relations and Governance, World Health Organization (WHO):*

Over **4,1m confirmed** cases of COVID19. WHO's mission of promoting health, keeping the world safe and serving the most vulnerable is now **more important than ever**.

WHO's **strong public voice** is never more needed than now. We are involved in the management of the **infodemic**. We produced over 130 risk communications, posters, flyers, videos, science packs. We have never translated as much information as in the last weeks. Over 60 webinars have been organized.

COVID19 is a **new virus**. Everything discovered about it was **discovered in the past months**. People must remember this aspect when considering the global response.

Other challenges during this crisis include the **coordination** between all the different partners and the **mobilization of resources** to do all this. For 2020, WHO needs 1,2 billion \$.

*Stéphanie Seydoux - Ambassador for Global Health, France:*

We are seeing possibly the **best in multilateral cooperation**, but we need to make sure we do not see the **worst** as well. Many calls have been issued by world leaders such as the UN SG. WHO has a central role in **leading the global response**.

While the efforts must remain sustain, we must be careful about the fact that **other health issues remain priorities**. We must not shift away other efforts on other health issues.

The crisis is about a **public common good: Health**.

*Geeta Rao Gupta - Executive Director of the 3D Program for Girls and Women, UN Foundation:*

Women are carrying the **socio-economic effects of the pandemic**. We would see more positive developments if more women were occupying **leader positions** around the world. This is a key element.

Three categories of gender related impact: 1. Exacerbated **health-consequences** for women. 2. Exacerbated **economic impacts** on women. 3. **Security consequences**: domestic violence spiking.

*Chee Yoke Ling - Director, Third World Network, Malaysia:*

The production of all the health products are from the **private sector**. We need a global platform and WHO is very important in this.

In the South, we have a lot of **trust in WHO**. We expect WHO to coordinate the response.

*Dr Patrick M. Eba - Country Director in the Central African Republic, UNAIDS:*

How societies deal with pandemics will not only test our fundamental values but will likely make the difference between success and failure in managing a society. In many places, responses to COVID19 are **violating our common commitment to human rights and dignity**. Limitations adopted by government must be proportional, limited and abide by the law. In some countries, COVID19 laws are used to justify **political repression**.

We need to realize that **torture and jail is not an answer to COVID**. It will only be counterproductive. What is needed is to empower people. We need to create **trust, not fear**. We all have the responsibility to protect human rights and to **hold governments accountable**.