



## **7th Global Conference on Health Promotion, Nairobi**

### **Sub-plenary session**

*Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 14:00 -15:30*

### **Civil Society and NGOs Closing the Implementation Gap**

#### **Focal points**

*Dr Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo,*

Executive Director, African Institute for Health and Development, Nairobi, Kenya.

*Gabriella Sozanski,*

Board Member/Secretary, NGO Alliance for Health Promotion, Geneva, Switzerland

#### **Facilitator**

*Denys Correll,* Executive Director, International Council on Social Welfare ICSW,  
Netherlands

#### **Rapporteur**

*Sonia Heptonstall,* Representative at UN, Solar Cookers International, SCI

#### **Panelists**

*Ron Kirk,* Life University, USA

Focusing on Community Assets for Health Promotion: The role of NGOs and Civil Society in  
Local Empowerment

*Berhane Ras-work,* Executive Director, Inter African Committee on Traditional Practices  
Affecting the Health of Women and Girls (IAC), Ethiopia

Positive Local Knowledge and Traditional Practices

*Grace Lo,* Manager, Community Health and Social Services Unit, International Federation of  
the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, IFRC, Geneva

Civil Society – a vital link in bridging the implementation gap

*Eliya Zulu,* Director of Research, African Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya

Role of evidence in closing the implementation and scale-up gap

## **Background**

Health Promotion Conferences have been key milestones in development and have encouraged Civil Society/NGO participation. During these conferences NGOs and Civil Society players have increasingly articulated their roles in Health Promotion. They have offered as much as they had. The Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion includes Civil Societies as partners. Commitment 3 of the BCHP calls for making the promotion of health a key focus of communities and Civil Society. The 7GCHP is looking at the gaps in implementation and offers an opportunity to move forward. However, bridging the implementation gap is too big a task for one single organisation. Civil societies and NGOs engaged in communities can act as the bridge that brings global health strategy into local action. Therefore this sub-plenary wants to address the challenges facing Civil Societies and NGOs to bridge the implementation gap and calls for collective advocacy so that communities have greater control over their health and its determinants.

## **Objectives**

1. To present and share initial ideas and experiences on community assets, community empowerment, partnerships, intersectoral cooperation and capacity building
2. To propose actions in which all stakeholders across sectors and at different levels can contribute to Health Promotion
3. To strengthen NGO and Civil Society working relationship with governments, WHO and other partners/agencies

## **Anticipated concluding messages**

- It is critical that Civil Society and NGOs are empowered as equal partners in the decision making and resource allocation when implementing the health promotion framework in national plans.
- Further research on harnessing local knowledge as a major community asset contributing to health development should be supported by all stakeholders.
- Civil Society and NGOs play a distinct and key role in enhancing the process of sustainable community health improvement and development by ensuring appropriate use and communication of local knowledge to Governments and international stakeholders.