

**NGO Alliance for Health Promotion Intervention on Provisional Agenda item 11.4
Monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals**

63rd World Health Assembly, Geneva, 17-21 May 2010

Submitted by the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices

Honourable Delegates, Chairperson, Director General,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices, a member of the NGO Alliance for Health Promotion which represents 120 civil society partners around the world and particularly FIP, FDI, SCI, WFMH, IAS, IHCO, AEMRN, ACCW, Life University, ICSW, INPEA, IAGG, GAWH, EDC, IFMSA, IAW and INHPF.

As you consider Provisional Agenda item 11.4 Monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, we ask that you take into account the critical data being observed by those who are implementing health promotion on the ground.

The experiences of those working at the community level show the importance of building partnerships of diverse stakeholders, including the local communities whose knowledge can be a foundation in promoting health.

Therefore, in order to reduce the growing health equity gap through a process of mainstreaming health promotion, we believe that it is imperative to recognize and honour local communities and their collective beliefs. We feel strongly that if WHO and its Member States are to achieve sustainable success through local ownership of any type of intervention programmes on health, it is vital to link goals and actions with community assets like local knowledge, traditions and the community's sense of identity.

While we are all familiar with the well-documented evidence concerning the effects of public health measures and the social and economic determinants of health, it is equally important that we be aware of the significant gaps in knowledge as to how cultural environments affect health outcomes. There is especially a dearth of information to guide grassroots development, the area in which NGOs and civil society are most active.

The NGO Alliance for Health Promotion is in the process of developing a knowledge base of best practices in health promotion focussing specifically on community assets and cultural dynamics, and a toolkit for their evaluation, replication and implementation. We strongly urge WHO and its Member States to collaborate with us on this initiative at all levels—community, national and international—thus contributing to the implementation of health policies consistent with the MDGs.

Thank you

Geneva, 18 May 2010

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Supporting organisations:

1. Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices, IAC, Ethiopia
2. NGO Alliance for Health Promotion, A4HP, Geneva
3. International Pharmaceutical Federation, FIP, the Hague, Netherlands
4. FDI World Dental Federation, Geneva
5. Solar Cookers International, SCI, Sacramento, California, USA
6. World Federation for Mental Health, WFMH, USA
7. International AIDS Society, IAS, Geneva
8. International Health Co-operative Organisation, IHCO, Barcelona, Spain
9. Afro-European Medical and Research Network, AEMRN, Bern, Switzerland
10. Associated Country Women of the World, ACCW, London, UK
11. Life University, Atlanta, USA
12. International Council on Social Council, ICSW, Utrecht, Netherlands
13. Global Alliance for Women's Health, GAWH, New York, USA
14. Health and Human Development Division
15. Education Development Center, Inc., EDC/Health and Human Development Division, Newton, MA USA
16. International Federation of Medical Students' Association, IFMSA, Ferney-Voltaire, France
17. International Alliance of Women, IAW
18. International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (in collaborative relationship with the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics IAGG)
19. International Network of Health Promotion Foundations, INHPF, Australia, representing
 - Austrian Health Promotion Foundation,
 - Health Promotion Switzerland
 - Malaysian Health Promotion Board
 - Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth), Thailand
 - Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), Australia
 - Australia Health Promotion Foundation (Healthway), Australia
 - BC Coalition for Health Promotion, British Columbia, Canada
 - Health 21 Hungarian Foundation
 - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, India
 - Management Centre for Health Promotion, Korea
 - Department of Health - Government Implementing Agency, Health Promotion Division, Mongolia
 - Oman Health Promotion Initiative
 - Polish Health Promotion Foundation
 - Tonga Health Promotion Foundation (TongaHealth)
 - Vietnam Steering Committee on Smoking and Health, Ministry of Health (VINACOSH)