

DECLARATION OF INTENT UNITE Global Board

Parliamentarians role in advocating for a better and equitable global health architecture

As members of the UNITE Global Board, taking into account the fundamental role of parliamentarians in improving global health, which includes tackling the current pandemic, other infectious diseases and achieving the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals, by recognizing the need for multilateralism and collaboration between all stakeholders, we declare:

- That national governments and other levels of power must prioritize health and take urgent action to strengthen their health systems by increasing their public health and community workforces, developing pandemic preparedness measures such as surveillance systems, investing in research and development, as well as innovative approaches to new global health challenges, such as digital transition, among other investments and measures.
- That given the financial gap to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals for Health, additional investments are needed within and between countries to achieve UHC, enabling equitable access to health care and ultimately health for all, regardless of socio-economic and other status.
- That infectious diseases represent a major cause of preventable deaths worldwide and that stronger public health systems must be put in place to address current challenges and prevent future pandemics.
- That there is a human rights, moral, and economic obligation to ensure universal and equitable access to diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, and that the lack of universal access to medicines and commodities represents a threat to global public health.
- That evidence-based harm reduction approaches to drugs result in better (and more cost effective) public health outcomes; and that reform of punitive drug laws have the potential to reduce vulnerability to communicable diseases and uphold the rights of some of the most poor and marginalised groups in society.
- That additional sustainable resources are urgently required from the international community to rebuild and further strengthen health systems, and that multilateral aid mechanisms have a key role to play in providing these resources. We welcome the decision of the World Health Assembly on Sustainable Financing of WHO. Furthermore, ensuring and supporting the successful replenishment of the Global Fund, CEPI, GAVI, and all funding mechanisms that support diseases not covered by the aforementioned organizations is essential to channel investments into

strengthening health systems, addressing both existing and future pandemics, alongside the need for more international and domestic direct investments in Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Primary Health Care.

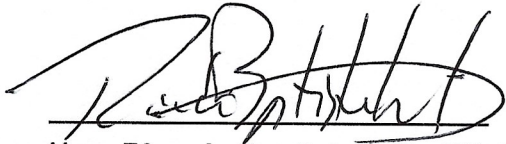
- That the current digital age offers unprecedented opportunities to adopt and apply technology and use data to identify and address healthcare needs, including among the most marginalized and neglected populations to achieve UHC, with the need to ensure access for all.
- That measures are urgently required to improve the protection of human rights during health emergencies, particularly for already vulnerable and marginalized communities, including women and children, as well as to strengthen civil society participation in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.
- That it is essential to support the process of developing and negotiating a global agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. It is imperative that the reform of the global health architecture embraces the principles of equity, accountability and transparency to effectively protect the world from pandemic threats. At the same time, there is a need for global financing of a new global health architecture that is fit for purpose. The G20 High Level Independent Panel estimated the total funding requirement for the future pandemic preparedness and response system at an annual investment of US\$ 31.1 billion, an additional US\$ 15 billion above current investments. In parallel, existing funds have stepped up to assist in the response, such as the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria, of which we support the seventh replenishment in the fall of 2022 in the United States to achieve the US\$ 18 billion. We believe that parliamentarians can play a critical role driving advocacy for increased and appropriate allocation of resources, monitoring and proposing changes to policy environments and holding governments and multilateral institutions accountable for commitments taken.
- That as mentioned at the 75th World Health Assembly, in May 2022, without peace there is no health and without health there is no peace. We need to address the global humanitarian crisis from a health perspective and make sure that national health systems are ready to deal with crisis beyond borders and to ensure care for refugees and other displaced populations.
- That the World Health Organization assumes a pivotal role in being the main source of coordination and policy guidance during global crisis and therefore policymakers should find direct channels to make sure that policies at regional and national levels have a strong evidence-based support, in order to better serve the citizens that they represent.

We commit to:

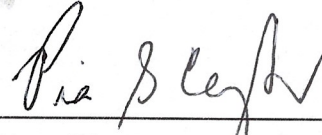
- Establish and implement the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan of UNITE, bringing together representatives from across regions under a common global health agenda, with a

focus on human rights, and fostering international cooperation on pressing issues such as pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, global health security, health financing, research and development, equitable access to new and existing health tools, mental health, universal health coverage, fighting against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases, harm reduction and drug policy, the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance, and other global health challenges.

- Support our members to advocate for resource mobilization and policy change in key areas of mutual concern and interest to ensure that no one is left behind, in accordance with the SDGs.
- Support the work of the World Health Organization as directing and coordinating authority of global health, normative health agency and advocate for a common agenda that ensures that policymakers have the right information at the right time to support better public health policies in their regional and national contexts.
- Support non-governmental and community-based organizations, and other public and private stakeholders committed to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals for global health.



Hon. Ricardo Baptista Leite MP, MD
President & Founder
UNITE Global Parliamentarians Network
Member of Parliament of Portugal



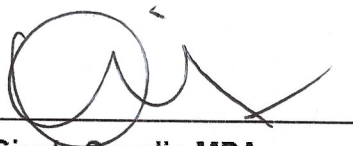
Hon. Pia Cayetano MP
Chair for Asia Pacific
UNITE Global Parliamentarians Network
Senator of the Philippines



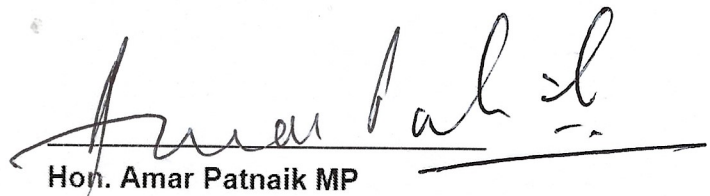
Hon. Esther Passaris MP
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Hon. Mariam Jashi MD, MPA, MPH
Chair for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
UNITE Global Parliamentarians Network
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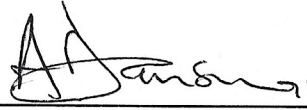
Hon. Gisela Scaglia MPA
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