

**UNITE**

Parliamentarians Network  
for Global Health



# Join Your Delegation

at the 76<sup>th</sup> **World Health  
Assembly** in Geneva

**Campaign briefing**

UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health



## 1. What is the World Health Assembly (WHA)

The **World Health Assembly** (WHA) is the decision-making body of the **World Health Organization** (WHO). It is attended by delegations from all **WHO Member States** and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the **Executive Board**. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The World Health Assembly is held annually in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

During the one-week meeting, countries agree to resolutions, adopt action plans, supervise finances, review and approve the proposed budgets, discuss key public health issues, and determine the policies of the organization.

## 2. Why you should join your national delegation

Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned, through their core roles of **law-making, budgeting and oversight**, to transform societies to enable everyone to have access to the health services they need; especially those of women, girls and adolescents; and by eliminating the drastic inequalities that exist today.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes the **importance of the involvement of parliamentarians in international health forums and discussions at the highest political levels**. Participating in the WHA is a unique opportunity for MPs to engage in global health policy discussions and decision-making.

In 2022, the WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, at the World Health Summit in Berlin, emphasized the **crucial role of parliamentarians in advancing global health**. He stated: “Parliaments will also play a key role in strengthening the global health architecture, in the areas of sustainable financing and developing and implementing the international accord for pandemic preparedness, prevention and response.”<sup>1</sup>

By joining their national delegation, parliamentarians can bring attention to the national health priorities, strengthening their country’s position in international health policy discussions, while making a significant contribution to global health governance. Simultaneously, it is an opportunity to learn best practices and innovative solutions to health challenges from other countries and use that knowledge to strengthen their own national health systems.

### **MPs participation in the World Health Assembly can support them in:**



#### **Developing partnerships**

**Enhance cross-sectoral collaboration:** it is an opportunity to connect with other stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academics, and other government officials, to foster cross-sectoral collaboration and exchange ideas.

**Foster international cooperation:** it is an important forum for promoting international cooperation and collaboration on global health issues. By participating in the WHA, parliamentarians can help to build bridges between countries and promote cooperation on shared health challenges.



#### **Influencing policy decisions**

Parliamentarians can bring the perspectives and experiences of their constituencies to the table and advocate for policies that can improve health outcomes for all. They can also have a significant impact on global health policy and decision-making.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general's-openin\[...\]lobal-health-agenda-forward-world-health-summit-18-october-2022](https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general's-openin[...]lobal-health-agenda-forward-world-health-summit-18-october-2022)



## Promoting accountability

**Promote greater transparency and accountability:** As elected representatives, parliamentarians have a responsibility to hold their governments accountable for their actions and decisions. By participating in the WHA, they can help to promote greater transparency and accountability in global health policy-making.

**Strengthen national health systems:** Parliamentarians can learn about best practices and innovative solutions to health challenges from other countries and use that knowledge to strengthen their own national health systems.

### 3. How to engage with the #JoinYourDelegation campaign

Below are some resources that can be used to join the campaign:

- **Share a picture**  
holding a paper with the #JoinYourDelegation hashtag or the downloadable imagery ([Click here](#))
- **Share a video**  
calling on fellow parliamentarians or governments  
[Watch here](#) Hon. Neema Lugangira from Tanzania sharing her experience while having attended the WHA last year
- **Use our suggested tweets**  
[Click here](#) to access click-to-tweet links, adding your own photo or video  
If you share any content, make sure to use hashtags #JoinYourDelegation and #WHA76 and to tag UNITE  
[Twitter](#) @UNITE\_MPNetwork  
[LinkedIn](#) UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health  
[Facebook](#) @UNITE.Parliamentarians.Network.for.Global.Health  
[Instagram](#) @unite\_mpnetwork
- **Engage with governments**  
to advocate for your inclusion in the delegation to the 76th WHA with this downloadable letter template ([Click here](#))

Resources will also be available at UNITE's linktree account, that [you can access clicking here.](#)

