

PRESS RELEASE

9th September 2024 - 08:00 CEST

UNITE Announces New Executive Leadership looking to Drive 2030 Strategy

- **UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health appointed Dr Guilherme Duarte as its next Executive Director;**
- **Dr Duarte, serving until now as a diplomat in Geneva for the Portuguese Government will assume the role immediately;**
- **Dr Guilherme Duarte: *“I am inspired by UNITE's mission and the challenges ahead. The challenges in global health are vast but our commitment is unwavering, and with the team's passion and our partners' support, I'm confident we will drive meaningful, lasting change where it's needed most”.***

Lisbon, Portugal – UNITE, the Global Network of Parliamentarians dedicated to advancing health solutions, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Guilherme Gonçalves Duarte as its new Executive Director. In this moment of transition, UNITE has taken the opportunity to appoint a new Executive Director to lead the organization through its next phase.

Following a thorough recruitment process, UNITE is proud to welcome Dr. Guilherme Duarte as its incoming Executive Director. Duarte brings a wealth of experience in Diplomacy, Policymaking, and Global Health. A trained medical doctor with a specialization in Public Health, Duarte has spent the past years as a Diplomat in Geneva, managing health affairs for the Portuguese Government. His diverse background includes serving in the Cabinet of Government, consulting for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) and working as a public health doctor and managing emergencies at local, national, and international levels. Additionally, Dr. Duarte is in the final stages of completing an MBA at Maastricht University, further enhancing his leadership skills.

UNITE President Dr. Ricardo Baptista Leite shared his enthusiasm for the appointment:

“With experience in diplomacy, policymaking, and global health, Dr. Guilherme Gonçalves Duarte has established himself as a dedicated advocate for public health and a proven leader in managing complex health challenges. His diverse background, including his work as a diplomat in Geneva speaks to his deep commitment to advancing health equity. I am impressed by his accomplishments and excited about the possibilities his appointment brings for our organization's future. His expertise will be crucial as UNITE advances towards its 2030 strategy and addresses the challenges ahead.”

Dr. Duarte's appointment comes at a pivotal time for UNITE. As its current strategic period draws to a close at the end of 2025, UNITE will seek Board approval next year for its 2026–2030 strategy that will aim to position UNITE for the post-2030 era of global health. In addition to shaping future strategy and expanding partnerships, fundraising will be a key priority to ensure the organization's sustainability and support its ambitious plans, which include fostering a global network of parliamentarians and driving effective policy change worldwide.

Note to editors

About **UNITE, Parliamentarians Network for Global Health**

UNITE is the only global network exclusively focused on uniting Members of Parliament around global health issues. Through partnerships with key organizations, including the World Health Organization, UNITE facilitates a peer-to-peer network of current and former legislators dedicated to advancing science-based, data-driven policymaking to improve health outcomes worldwide. As a non-profit and non-partisan organization, UNITE boasts a membership of approximately 500 parliamentarians from over 110 countries.

This year, UNITE is organizing its flagship event, the **UNITE Global Summit**, in collaboration with the World Health Summit. The UNITE Global Summit @ World Health Summit will be held in Berlin on October 16th, immediately following the World Health Summit. The partnership aims to amplify the reach and impact of both events, emphasizing the shared responsibility of addressing health not only at the local but also at the global level—an imperative highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This collaboration offers a unique platform for influencing global health policy, bringing together parliamentarians, policymakers, and stakeholders from across sectors to transform science, technology, and evidence into actionable policies.

For more information, please contact:

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