

MMI ANNUAL REPORT 2024



medicus mundi
international network
health for all

MMI – MORE THAN EVER

A foreword by MMI President

For Medicus Mundi International (MMI), 2024 was primarily a year of institutional change. At the end of 2024, our Executive Secretary Thomas Schwarz, who had been in office since 2008, retired. During his time at MMI, Thomas successfully positioned the organization in the international community in Geneva, particularly within the World Health Organization.

Against this backdrop, the MMI Board of Directors paid close attention to the recruitment of a successor. In mid-October, Alessandra Tisi took over Thomas's diverse responsibilities. We can already say that this transition has been a great success. Alessandra has already positioned herself well within the WHO and established a strong network. We are proud that Alessandra also represents a successful generational change.

MMI is therefore well positioned to meet the current challenges. Challenges? I realize that this term is a cruel understatement in view of the global disruption of health care, the attack on fundamental rights and thus the right to health. Values, principles, evidence-based international health cooperation, and solidarity are being shot down—and I say this quite deliberately in a martial tone.

We are all under particular pressure at the moment – not least because, in addition to the US government's policy of malice, other governments have also begun to cut their budgets for international cooperation. But that is precisely why we must stand together as a network, not lose sight of the big picture, and work together to strengthen our impact.

This year, MMI is revising its strategy for the coming years. With a view to the 50th anniversary of Alma Ata in 2028, a renewed mandate for basic health care for all for the next 50 years will be at the center of our considerations. More than ever.



*Martin Leschhorn Strebelt,
MMI Network President*

"PROVIDE INPUT AND NORMATIVE GUIDANCE ON AN AGREED SET OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES"

CLIMATE AND HEALTH JUSTICE A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE HOSTED BY THE MMI NETWORK

Followed by an invitation from the Secretariat, in 2023 the members of the MMI Network embarked on the creation of a "Community of Practice on Climate and Health", steered by Medicus Mundi Spain. With the aim of providing a space for sharing experiences and knowledge on topics at the intersection of climate and health, the CoP proudly celebrated its first birthday in 2024 with many engaged members, inputs and topics discussed.

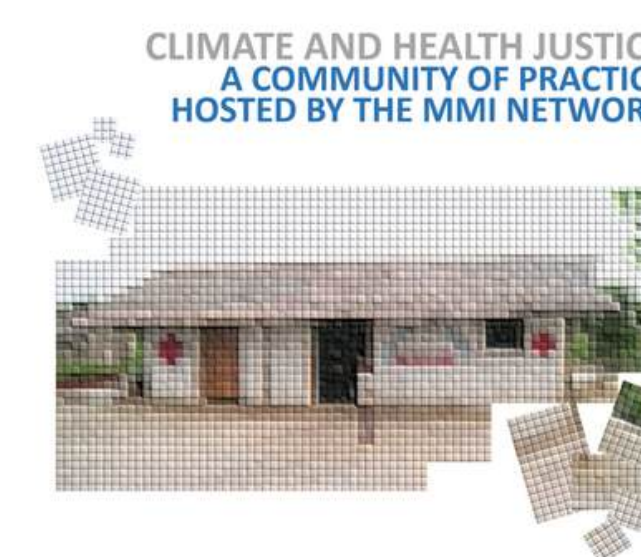
Public discussion session
Thursday, 28 March 2024
15.00 - 16.00 CET, via Zoom



The Impact of Climate Change on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)
Examples from FAIRMED's work in Chad and Nepal

WWW.MEDICUSMUNDI.ORG/CLIMATE

SERIES OF PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS
A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE APPROACH TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS



26 September 2024, 15.00-16.30 CEST/SAST
Zimbabwe: The neglected double crisis of health and climate injustice

WWW.MEDICUSMUNDI.ORG/CLIMATE



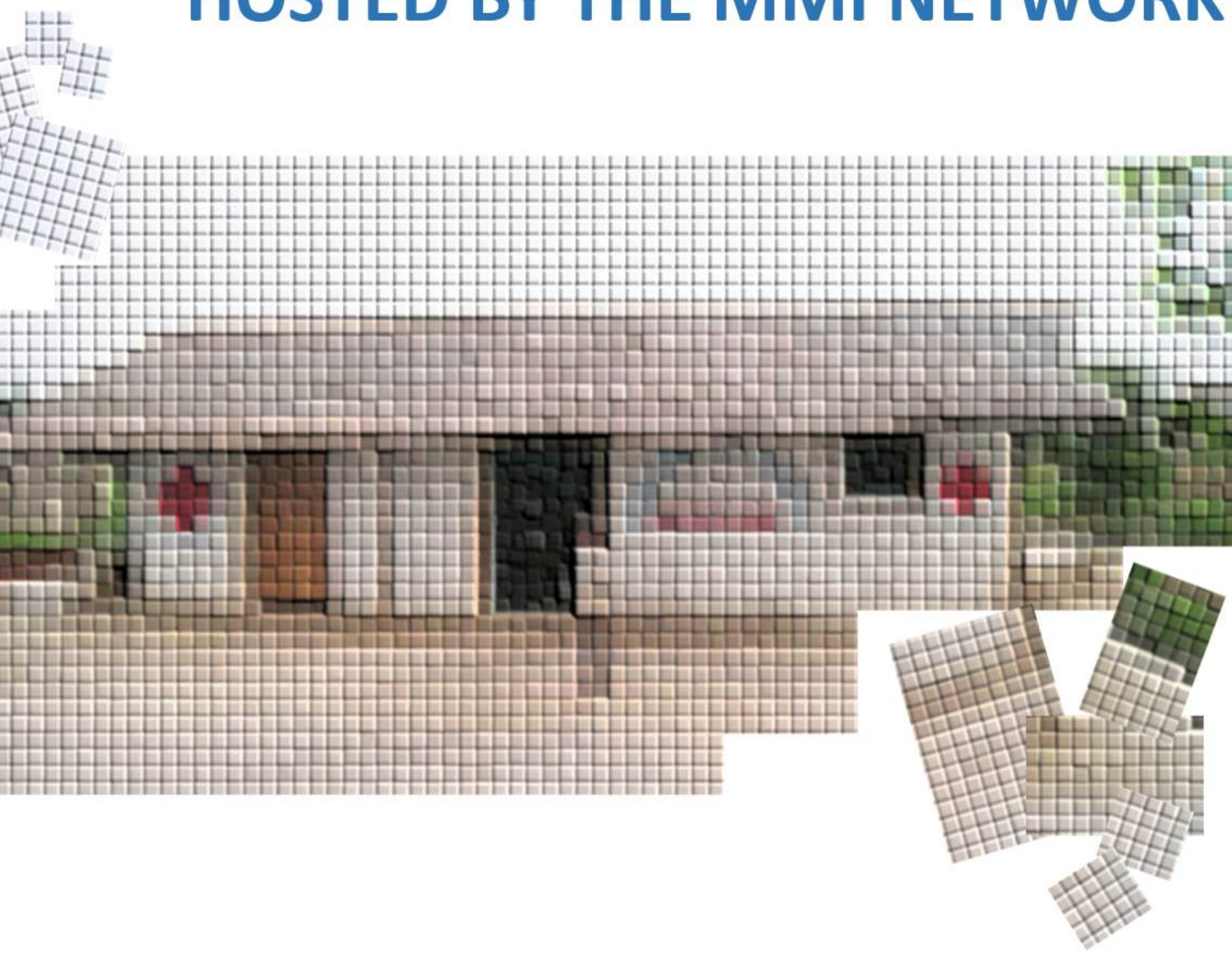
In January, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shared with the group how their organization has developed climate-smart programs and operations, something that all civil society organizations working in international health cooperation will need to incorporate into their projects and programs.

In February, ITM Antwerp led the discussion on travel policies for international health cooperation organizations to minimize climate impact, outlining its strategy.

In March, FAIRMED addressed the implications of climate change for neglected diseases, presenting its experiences in Nepal and Chad.

April was the month of preparation for the World Health Assembly, which was held in May, and the CoP reflected on how the WHO's role in climate and health justice could be strengthened.

CLIMATE AND HEALTH JUSTICE A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE HOSTED BY THE MMI NETWORK



In September CWGH showed us the neglected dual crises of health and climate injustice in a country like Zimbabwe, allowing us to share the perspectives of the country's own civil society on this issue.

In October the conversation focused on how to incorporate a Primary Health Care approach to address climate and health injustices, led by the European Observatory on Health/WHO.

In November the year ended by bringing to the table the poor results of COP 29, in a discussion led by UNU-IIGH.

Looking back at the past year and drawing some conclusions, we can say that the community of practice is a success story, worth watching and following, for many reasons.

First, the success of the community is due to its full ownership by MMI Network Members, who decide the content of each session, according to their own interests and current activities.

Second, the community of practice is a trusted platform for members to test their own ideas, present their own projects, obtain genuine assessments and gain valuable partners.



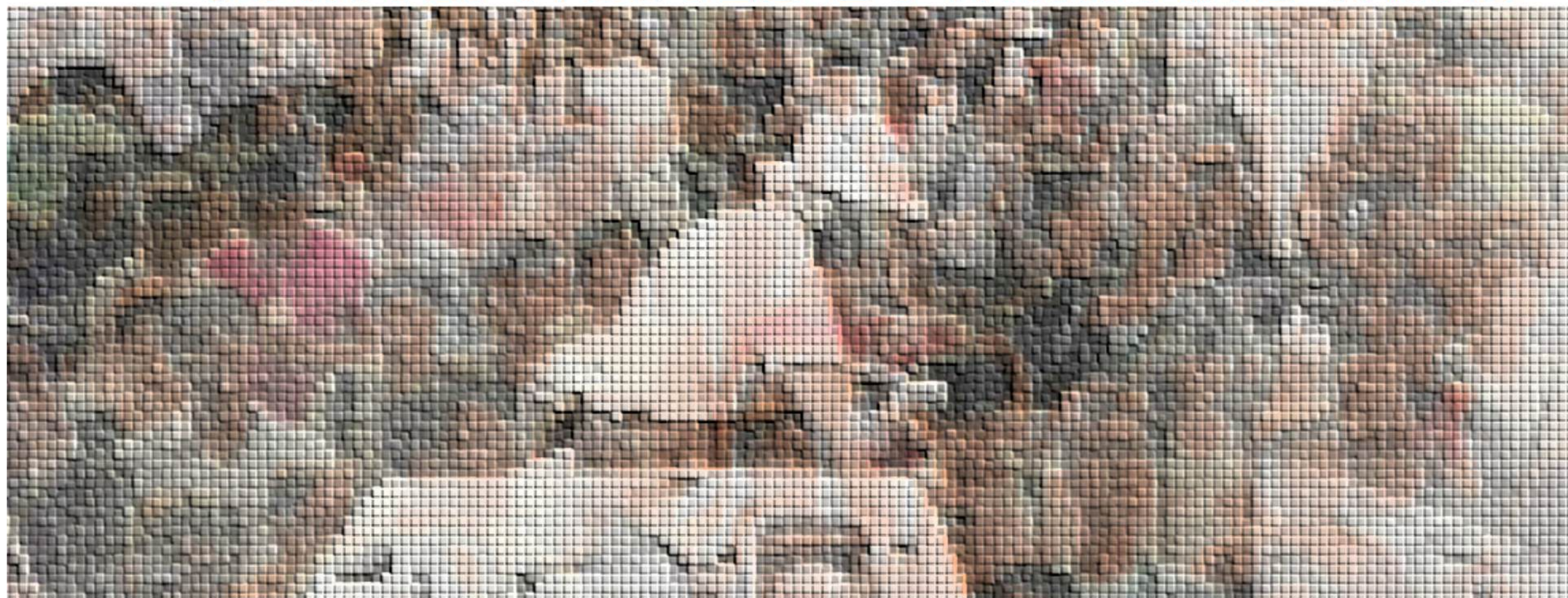
Of course, this past year has also shown potential learning opportunities for the Community of Practice. To preserve the historical memory of what has been discussed as well as to inspire members (and friends) towards a theory of change, MMI shall consider implementing a “written legacy” of its meetings in 2025.

More to come in 2025... where MMI will continue advancing, improving and learning on such an urgent issue. There is still a long way to go to achieve climate and health equity.

DECOLONIZE HEALTH COOPERATION A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE JOINTLY HOSTED BY MMI AND MMS

In 2023, MMS conducted a study on the status of the decolonization process. The preparation of the report was set up as a broad-based learning process. One of the results of the study was that a so-called Community of Practice (CoP) should be established. Together with Medicus Mundi Switzerland MMI has set up the group. Before the actual start in October 2024, the group's own terms of reference were developed to ensure that the CoP functioned well.

DECOLONIZE HEALTH COOPERATION A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE JOINTLY HOSTED BY MMI AND MMS



EVENTS IN 2024

- 10 October 2024: *Somaliland realities of aid – and the aspiration of "decolonizing cooperation"*, by Idil Ismail, in cooperation with Hadia Medical Swiss
- 14 November 2024: *"Walking the talk of decolonization: Institution Transformation processes"* by Martin Gallard, Fondation Terre des Hommes
- 12 December 2024: *"World Council of Churches: Approach to decolonization"* by Mwai Makoka, World Council of Churches

MMI ENGAGEMENT ON HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH (HRH)

MMI and its network members have over the years engaged and participated at various advocacy platforms aimed at advancing policies and strategies related to safeguard, protect and invest in a skilled, trained and motivated health workforce.

As for other CSOs advocating in the field of Human Resources for Health, the year 2024 was an important moment for MMI and its network to unite forces, raise voices and catalyse attention and resources towards the working conditions of our global health resources, which, in many ways, form the essential backbone of all the health system structures and without whom there would be no really right to health(care).

AROUND THE WHA...

In fact, among the agenda items at the 2024 World Health Assembly, there was also the 5th round of reporting related to the “WHO Global Code of Practice” (The Code). Later in that year also the third review of the Code’s relevance took place.

The Code is an important instrument adopted at the WHA63 in 2010 that seeks to strengthen the understanding and ethical management of international health personnel recruitment and migration through strengthening data, information, and international cooperation.



The graphic is a light blue rectangular box with rounded corners. At the top left, there is a red pill-shaped button with the word "WEBINAR" in white capital letters. Below this, the main title is written in a bold, dark blue font: "Why and how civil society can contribute to the 5th reporting round on the implementation of the WHO Code of Practice". To the right of the text is a photograph of two female healthcare workers in light blue scrubs, one wearing a hijab, looking at a document together. Below the title and photo, the date and time are listed: "15 May 2024" and "15:00-16:00 (CEST)". Below that is a location icon and the word "Zoom". At the bottom left of the text area, it says "Register via link". At the bottom of the graphic, there are three logos: "medicusmundi international network health for all" (with a curved line above the text), "PSI PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL" (with a red circle containing "PSI" to the left), and "wemos Make health justice happen" (with a globe icon to the right of "wemos").

As “friends of the Code” the organizations taking part in the MMI Network have always been keen to see the Code further developing into a strong, relevant, and effective instrument.

To catalyze attention around the Code and entice civil society engagement in (at the moment ongoing) participating in the reporting round, shortly before the beginning of the WHA77 the Network organized a technical webinar *“Why and how civil society can contribute to the 5th round of reporting on the implementation of the WHO Code of Practice”*.



Seizing the momentum, at the WHA77 the MMI Network and other “friends of the Code” organized a side event *“Towards a Global Code of Practice that promotes the rights of the health and care workforce”* which was well attended with prominent speakers. The success and the importance of this side event are in the words of Corinne Hinlopen, co-moderator of the session and global health advocate at Wemos:

“It was not hard to moderate this group: participants were so eager to take the floor! And I was blown away by the experiences and testimonies they shared, whether it was the migrant doctor from Tunisia who did not really want to leave, but was offered so much more educational opportunity in Germany. Or the nurse from Sweden who told us they went on strike because they do not want to work (unpaid) overtime all the time and were then publicly denounced by government officials. Or the nurse from the Philippines who migrated to the UK and has recently published the results from his research into the mismatch between expectations and realities for Philippine nurses in the UK. And many more like these. We urged all of them to share these experiences and publications with the WHO during this fifth round of reporting on the WHO Code. And this call to action was strongly echoed by WHO representative Agya Mahat in the room.”

AT MMS SYMPOSIUM

Lastly, at the end of October 2024, MMI network members played an active role in the Symposium organized by Medicus Mundi Switzerland: Health workforce shortage: Are there potential ways out of the current healthcare crisis?

The aim of the Symposium was to highlight trends and perspectives in the international recruitment of health workers, understanding Switzerland's responsibility (according to the words of MMI President and MMS Director Martin Leschhorn, 3 out of 4 doctors working in Switzerland are trained abroad) and thinking through potential ways out of the ongoing health workforce shortage.

A few MMI members - Itai Rusike, Lauren Paremoer and Labila Sumayah Musoke - had the possibility to moderate/present a panel discussion where speakers observed how - due to poor working conditions, physical and mental health threats and abusive salaries - an alarming number of health workers flee to more lucrative sectors.



CSO ENGAGEMENT WITH WHO AND WHO GOVERNANCE

Another “hot” topic that has always been very close to the heart of MMI (and its at the time Executive Secretary Thomas Schwarz) is the one revolving around WHO governance and civil society participation in WHO processes.

In order to demystify WHO processes and to ensure a broader social participation MMI co-organized, together with Save the Children and CSEM, a session of the G2H2 Policy Debates in January 2024 on “*Beyond a WHA Assembly resolution: how to implement and institutionalize social participation and accountability?*”. In November, MMI co-organized a session on WHO governance for the International People’s Health University (IPHU), a series of online webinar hosted by PHM, a long friend and partner of MMI.

Additionally, let’s not forget the intense engagement of MMI in the WHO Civil Society Commission, where, once again, MMI Executive Secretary Thomas Schwarz played a pivotal role in its building. But that’s another story, and we will follow up on it later.

IPHU ON GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE SESSION ON 13 NOVEMBER 2024 Session with Thomas Schwarz and Alessandra Tisi, Medicus Mundi International Network (MMI): On the World Health Organization, its governance, and what to do with it as civil society



“The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.”

medicusmundi
international network
health for all

IPHU ON GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE SESSION ON 13 NOVEMBER 2024 Session with Thomas Schwarz and Alessandra Tisi, Medicus Mundi International Network (MMI): On the World Health Organization, its governance, and what to do with it as civil society



Their space

IPHU ON GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE SESSION ON 13 NOVEMBER 2024 Session with Thomas Schwarz and Alessandra Tisi, Medicus Mundi International Network (MMI): On the World Health Organization, its governance, and what to do with it as civil society



Our space

medicusmundi
international network
health for all

“CREATE, CONVENE, AND SUSTAIN RELEVANT CIVIL SOCIETY SPACES FOR EXCHANGE AND POLICY ADVANCEMENT”



We are building a strong civil society space in Geneva for more democratic global health

Co-created by Medicus Mundi in 2016 with the aim of providing “a space and enable civil society to meet, share knowledge and create initiatives to advocate for more democratic global health governance”, the Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2) has gained attention and prominence in the Geneva “global health bubble” along the years.

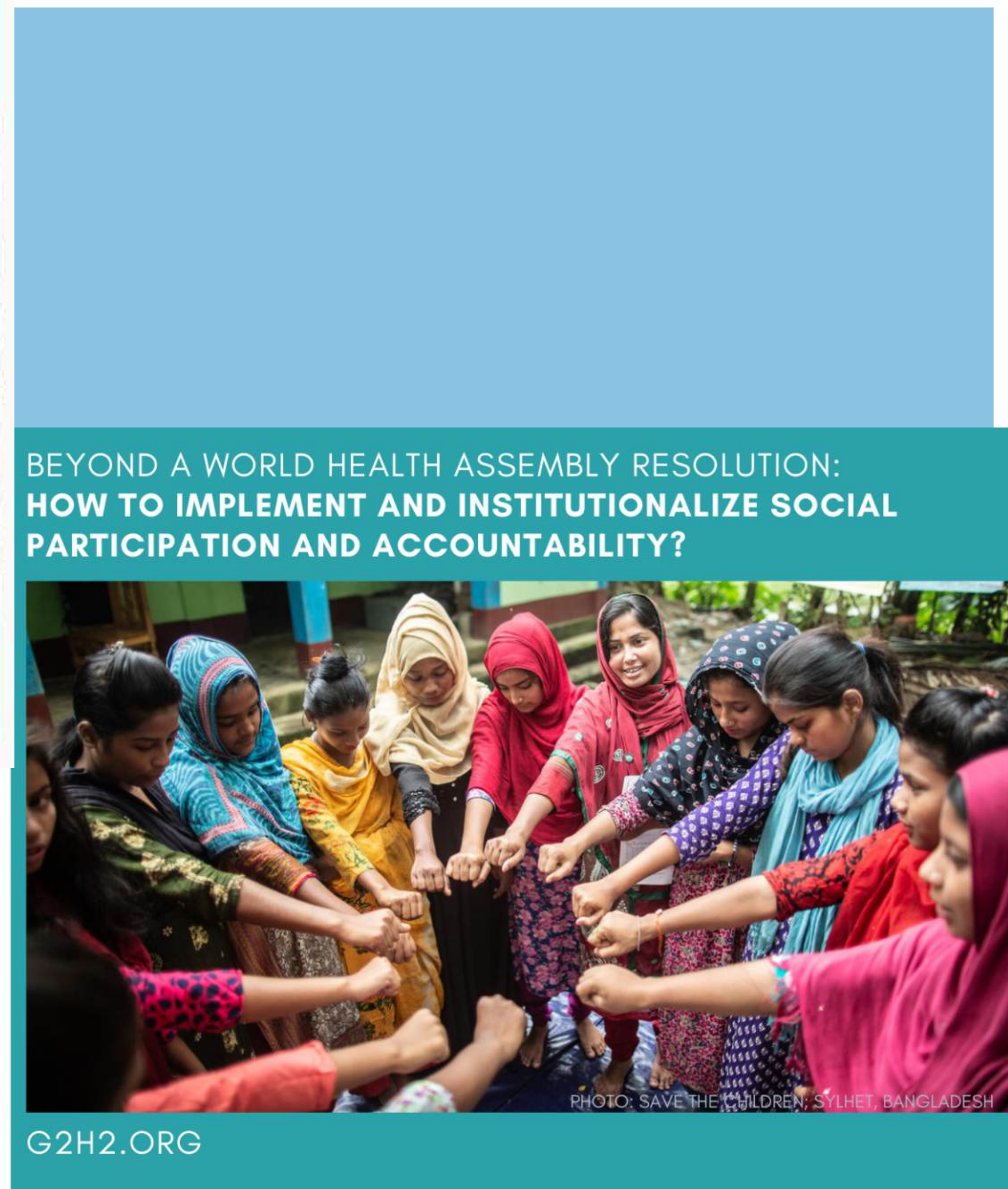
Medicus Mundi International, apart from being the proud co-founder of this successful network, currently hosts and administers the G2H2 Secretariat.

In the next pages we offer a short update of the most significant G2H2 events for the year 2024.

January 2024: MMI contributions to G2H2 hosted policy debates

As usual, ahead of the WHO Executive Board, G2H2 organizes a week full of virtual policy debates on topics that will – not necessarily – be discussed in the coming WHO Executive Board.

Policy debates are an important moment for civil society organizations (and friends) to get acquainted with some items of the EB Agenda as well as to present to the networks their current areas of work and engagement.



Over the years, MMI has always seized this opportunity to present its work and to advance its own advocacy agenda. In January 2024, MMI co-organized two sessions of the G2H2 policy debates.

The first one, “Putting climate and health at the center of the next WHO strategy: What does this mean? What does it need for WHO to walk the talk?” was co-organized in collaboration with the Global Climate and Health Alliance and MMI CoP on climate and health and featured speakers like Maria Neira, Director of the WHO Department of Public Health and Environment and Allan Li, WHO Assistant Director General on Universal Health Coverage.

The second one, “Beyond a World Health Assembly resolution: how to implement and institutionalize social participation and accountability?” was co-organized with Save the Children and CSEM and co-hosted by Slovenia and Thailand.

February and March 2024: G2H2 in person roundtable dialogues with Geneva Permanent Missions on the Pandemic Treaty negotiations

Since the beginning of the pandemic treaty negotiations, the Geneva Global Health Hub Network has been considered a “relevant stakeholder”. After the publishing, in 2021, of a policy paper with G2H2’s considerations on the pandemic treaty negotiations, in 2023 G2H2 started co-hosting a series of in-person roundtables with Geneva based permanent missions to discuss important – but neglected – aspects of the ongoing negotiations.

Digging into the hardware of the Pandemic Treaty



Not allowed – as all other relevant stakeholders – to follow the “closed-doors” type of discussions happening at the WHO among Member States, G2H2 found an alternative and smart way to keep engaging with member states and influencing the discussions. The series of events, providing an informal and alternative space for member states delegations to keep their discussions alive, revealed to be a successful format, which was continued also in the early months of 2024.

In February and March 2024, the Geneva Global Health Hub co-hosted three in – person roundtables. The first one in February was centred on the role and absence of human rights in the ongoing pandemic draft. The second one in March focused on the pandemic treaty financing and the third one in March focused on the pandemic treaty governance and the role that the civil society would play in it.

All of them received positive feedback and were key in reinforcing G2H2’s presence and positioning in the Geneva global health sphere.

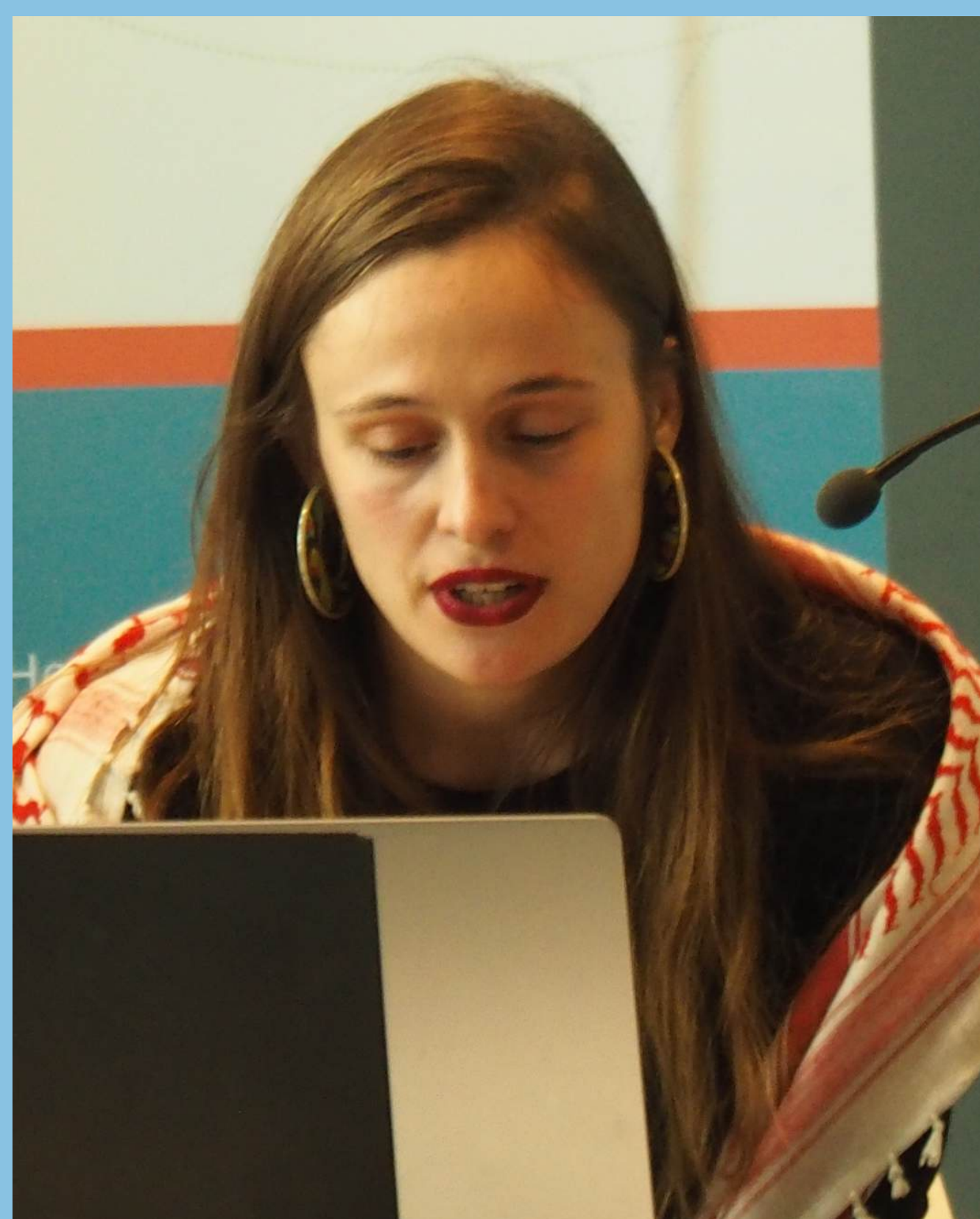
May 2024: “World in Flames”, a G2H2 workshop

In the weekend just before WHA77, G2H2 organized the “World in Flames: civil society lost in the impotence of warfare” workshop at MSF offices in Geneva. In a geopolitical framework of escalating warfare and radicalized injustice where international humanitarian law is being violated without impunity nor consequence, the workshop aimed at creating a moment of reflection for civil society organizations (and friends) on the following questions:



- Why does this climate of war concern us as civil society organizations?
- How to express and experience solidarity in times of dehumanization?
- What are we doing, faced with the impotence of international institutions and law that were meant to protect peace and people?
- How can we deal with our anger, our fears, our frustrations, including our dissent in analyzing the situation?
- What could and should we do when the very function of multilateralism is in serious jeopardy?

In the spirit of the G2H2 approach, the workshop aimed to broker an honest dialogue and explore avenues for civil society positioning and actions in a world of warfare beyond silence, resignation and business as usual.



October 2024: “Reclaim the UN” workshop



In the footsteps of the first, seminal “Reclaim the UN” Evian Retreat in 2023, where a group of indignant civil society organizations gathered to strategize against their gradual and constant disempowerment in the UN and multilateral fora, the “Reclaim the UN” Geneva workshop organized in October 2024 aimed at continuing that important and even more urgent dialogue, initiated one year before.



The 2-and-a-half-day workshop welcomed the “same old friends” and new civil society organizations for a total of more than 30 organizations and 50 individuals.

Steered by the moderation of Lucy Chambers, the participants took part on a series of targeted activities, starting from assessing what is and what does the UN represent for them, to thinking about how they could occupy the existing – and still accessible multilateral space – more effectively and what are the “main” upcoming unmissable events, to assessing the creation of a possible independent, international, permanent space for organizations to develop a common intersectional agenda for actions in multilateral spaces.



EB TODAY AND WHA TODAY

Initiated in 2020 as a response to the Covid-19 outbreak which paralyzed our daily work and forced everyone to “think outside the box” and to reinvent its daily routine, the two projects – launched by former MMI Executive Secretary Thomas Schwarz – EB TODAY and WHA TODAY – are still going strong almost 5 years later.

Providing a space for information sharing, assessing and strategizing both before (intersessional check-in meetings) and during the most important WHO yearly events, EB TODAY and WHA TODAY are “the place” to be for civil society members and friends willing to discover more about WHO dynamics and current negotiations.

Hosted by Medicus Mundi International, the project is supported also by the Geneva Global Health Hub and the People’s Health Movement (PHM), which, with their “EB and WHA Watchers” always provide valuable updates on the ongoing debates at the WHO.

EB TODAY

WHO EB 154, 22-27 JANUARY 2024

DAILY CIVIL SOCIETY LOUNGE
DURING WHO EB154, TUESDAY
TO SATURDAY, 9.00-9.45 CET



WHA TODAY

WHA77, 27 MAY - 1 JUNE 2024

LOUNGE FOR
CIVIL SOCIETY
EXCHANGES



JOIN US DAILY AT 13.30 CEST
STARTING MONDAY 27 MAY 2024

© WHO / LAURENT CIPRIANI



Health for All Now!
People's Health Movement



G2H2 GENEVA GLOBAL
HEALTH HUB

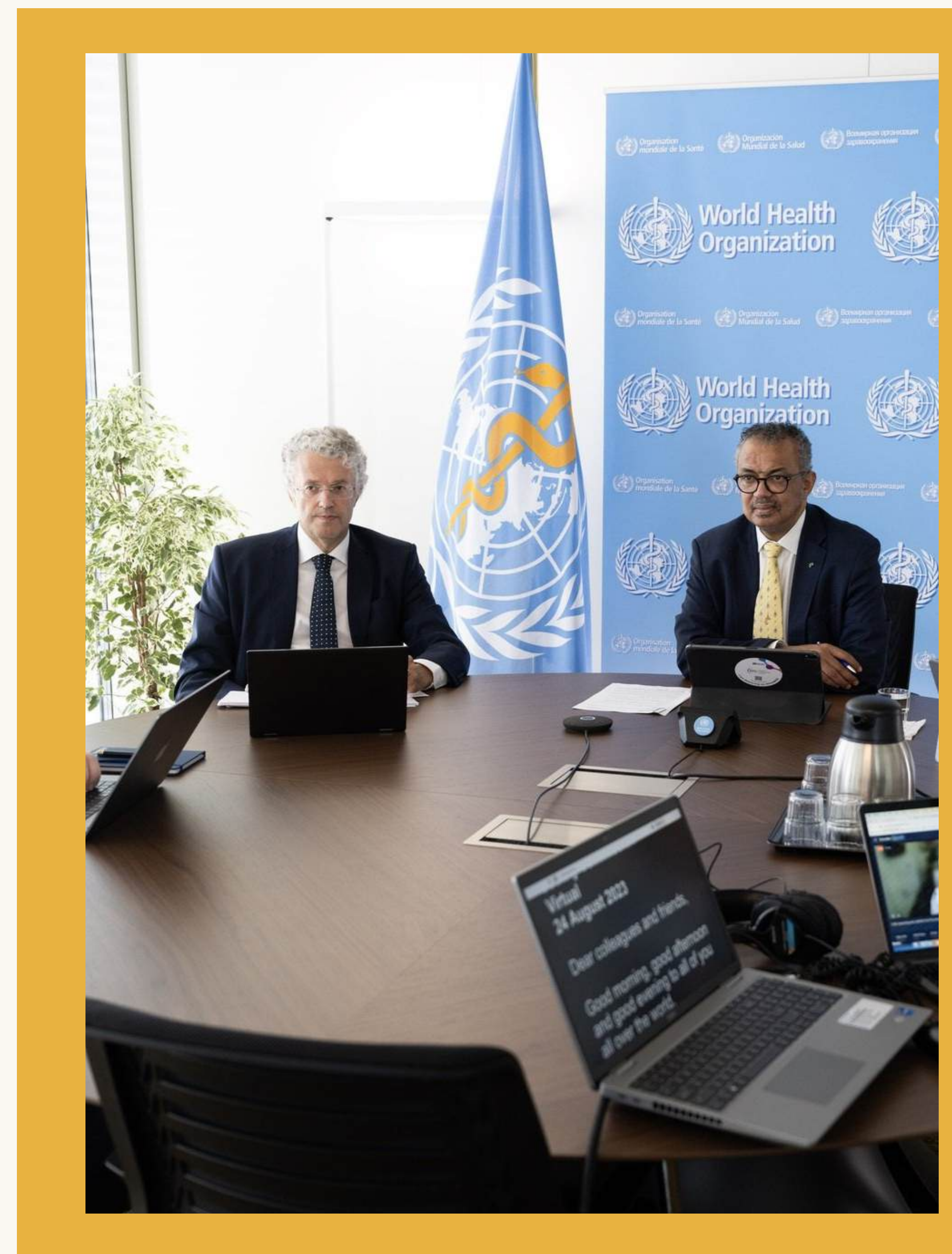
medicusmundi
international network
health for all

"SPEAK OUT AND AMPLIFY CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES AT THE GLOBAL POLICY LEVEL"

WHO CIVIL SOCIETY COMMISSION

As already reported in the previous MMI annual report, MMI Network has played a pivotal role in the creation of the WHO Civil Society Commission. Officially established in August 2023 after three years of work and negotiations, in the year 2024 the WHO CSO Commission completed its foundations as well as moved its first steps.

MMI – being among the co-creators of this important instrument aimed at facilitating the inclusion and engagement of civil society within the WHO – remained an important key player also during 2024 through the presence of its Executive Secretary Thomas Schwarz in its Steering Committee.



Additionally, Thomas Schwarz actively engaged in the activities of several working groups (WG1, WG3), aimed at delineating the guidelines and at setting some “good example” for WHO and Civil Society collaboration. Worth mentioning is the “Civil Society Engagement in the development of WHA resolutions and decisions. Lessons and examples from the 77th World Health Assembly”, a collection of “virtuous examples” of how the collaboration and engagement with civil society led to positive outcomes. The hope is for this study to set the foundations of a positive and more constant engagement between WHO and Civil Society everywhere. Thomas' engagement and dedication to the drafting of this important paper has been widely recognized and praised.

The study has been officially launched in January 2025... but this is a story for next year.

ADVOCACY RELATED TO WHO PROCESSES

As an organization in official relations with the WHO, MMI has the opportunity to closely follow the main WHO events of the year (Executive Board in January and the World Health Assembly in June) as well as other WHO processes, such as the negotiations on a Pandemic Treaty.

Among the advantages of having an “official status” with the WHO, there is also the possibility to directly engage with the WHO events through the so called “statements”, with which civil society organizations and other Non-State-Actors can vocalize their requests, critics and assessments in front of a room full of member states delegates.



In the year 2024, the “Statements” have been used by MMI as advocacy tools in two different settings:

- In March 2024, at the (still ongoing) negotiations for a Pandemic Treaty, MMI delivered the statement “safe workers, safe lives”.
- In May 2024, at WHA77, the “WHO Watch” program (to be explained below) prepared a variety of statements on behalf of MMI on a series of topical issues such as: critical assessments on the (still ongoing) negotiations for a pandemic treaty, reflections on the amendments of the International Health Regulations (2005); Climate Change, Pollution and Health; Social Determinants of Health; the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body; and Universal Health Coverage.

The MMI Network is an enabler for civil society voices to come to Geneva and attend the WHO meetings. Thanks to the “WHO Watch” program, co-sponsored with PHM, MMI offers the opportunity to local civil society actors, global health professionals as well as university students to come to Geneva and attend the two most important WHO meetings of the year: the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly. During that week, the “Watchers” duly follow all the meetings, take notes and draft daily reports to be disseminated among the network as well as to targeted member states delegations. Additionally, the “Watchers” play a pivotal role in the daily “WHA TODAY” and “EB TODAY” civil society lounge meetings, where they provide meaningful updates regarding the agenda items discussed.

The MMI Network is an enabler for civil society voices to come to Geneva and attend the WHO meetings. Thanks to the “WHO Watch” program, co-sponsored with PHM, MMI offers the opportunity – each year – to local civil society actors, global health professionals as well as university students to come to Geneva and attend the two most important WHO meetings of the year: the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly. During that week, the “Watchers” duly follow all the meetings, take notes and draft daily reports to be disseminated among the network as well as to targeted member states delegations. Additionally, the “Watchers” play a pivotal role in the daily “WHA TODAY” and “EB TODAY” civil society lounge meetings, where they provide meaningful updates regarding the agenda items discussed.



As in previous years, also in 2024 MMI supported a delegation of “WHO Watchers” attending the World Health Assembly. The team consisted of Watchers from India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Brazil, the Netherlands, Germany, UK, Belgium and the Philippines. Alessandra Tisi – the future Executive Secretary of MMI – was part of this delegation, and contributed to one of the 7 statements delivered by the Watchers.

ADVOCACY AT THE EU LEVEL

Apart from engaging with the WHO, in 2024 MMI had the opportunity to bring its own advocacy also in front of the EU members. In fact, in occasion of an expert meeting on Health Equity and Health Systems strengthening organized by (at that time) Belgian presidency, MMI Board Member Labila Sumayah Musoke had the possibility to reaffirm the pivotal role played by health as a human right and how it should remain accessible and available to everyone regardless of their socio-economic status.



Among the key recommendations made to the EU member states at the expert meeting, the following points have also been mentioned:

- Promotion of a rights and needs-based approach when implementing the EU global health strategy;
- Adoption of a decolonial approach;
- guarantee a well-trained, motivated and remunerated health workforce;
- systemically rethink the global financial architecture

The meeting was also attended by a variety of MMI network members such as Wemos, Memisa and ITM Antwerp.

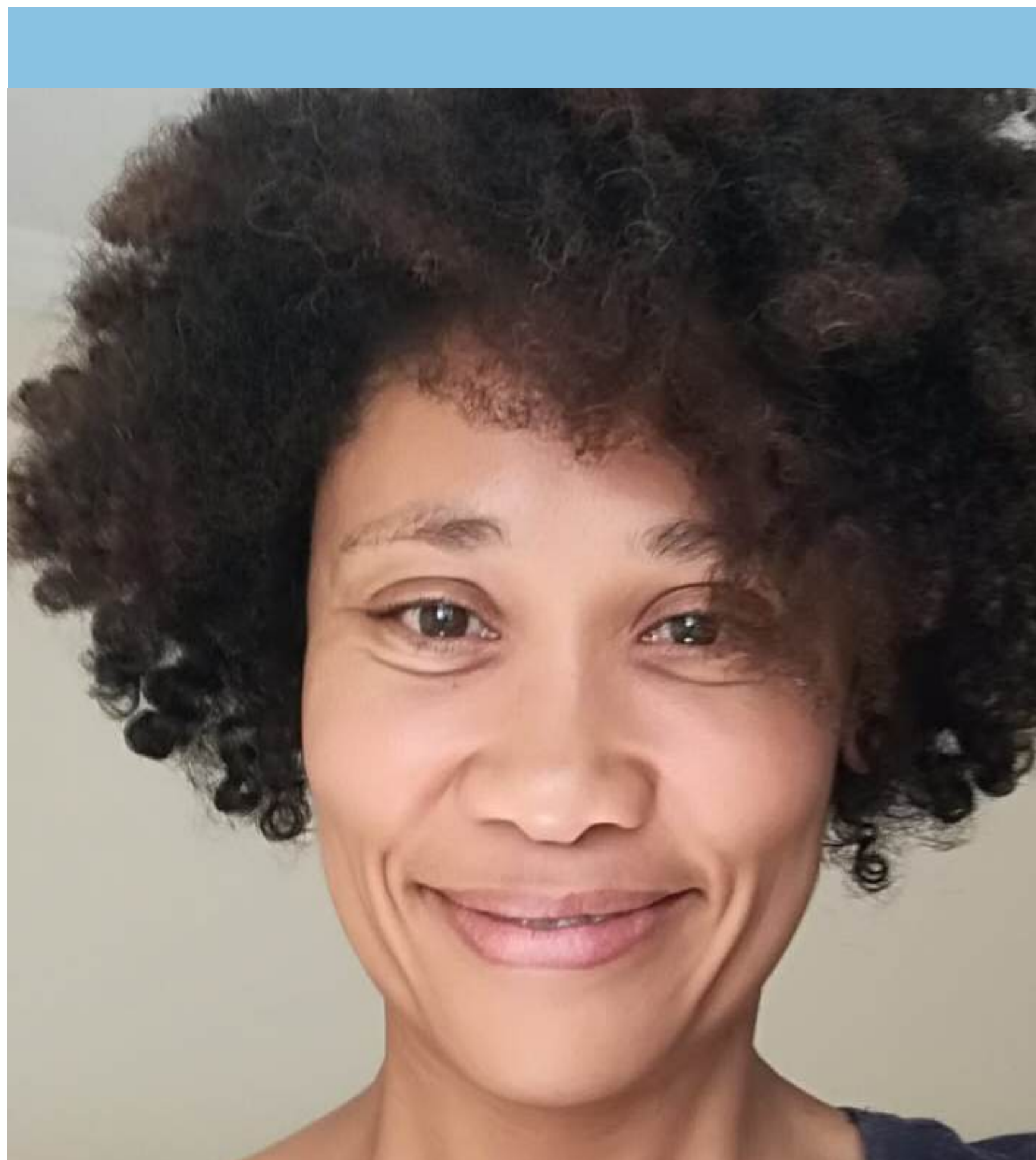
INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

As for every Network, beyond the “curtains” there are a series of institutional/administrative meetings that are needed to set the “stage”, the direction and the strategic priorities of MMI. While the “MMI Board” meetings are usually closed to the Board Members, the MMI members meeting (online, June 2024) and the Annual General Assembly (in Basel, October 2024) were open to all the Network. In this meetings, MMI yearly activities and achievements were presented and the annual and financial report discussed.

In 2024, two important institutional changes took place.

The first one is that, in October 2024, Lauren Paremoer was elected as a new board member.

The second one is that MMI Executive Secretary Thomas Schwarz - who has been in the field of global health cooperation for more than 28 years - happily retired at the end of November 2024. Following a selection process, its place has been taken by Alessandra Tisi, a global health activist that will now have the difficult task to fill the big shoes left by our dear Thomas.



Answering to the many well wishes and loving messages that he had received from the Network members and beyond, Thomas prepared a letter that has been published in MMI Website at the end of November 2024 and that we attach here. As the last words of our/his Annual Report. To thank him for his passionate work spanning almost three decades and to remind ourselves that each one of us is capable of big changes, especially if surrounded by precious companions...

Au revoir and until next year!
Alessandra

*Dear friends,
Dear colleagues,*

*Thanks a lot for your messages of farewell and appreciation.
They went straight into my heart. And will stay there for a good while.*

So, tomorrow will be my last “formal” working day at Medicus Mundi Switzerland (MMS), the organization in which I started, in 1996, my time in “international health”. When I had my job interview with the MMS president Nick Lorenz, the only things I could offer him was my youth (!), energy and honest commitment, my background in “solidarity work”, two years of working abroad as a delegate of the ICRC, and, as a former school teacher, my skills of “translating” complicated matters so that also non-experts would understand them. And I got the job.

In 2008, MMS took over the Secretariat of the Medicus Mundi International Network, and I left the growing team at MMS and became the Executive Secretary of MMI. In 2016, as part of a team of organizations sharing the same values and the same impatience, we created the Geneva Global Health Hub, and MMI successfully applied for hosting the G2H2 Secretariat. And I became the Executive Secretary of G2H2. Since then, I remained the only, part-time employed, staff of MMI and G2H2. And, as I had done before, I continued to confuse work and life, and to walk the talk despite the perspectives, financially, institutionally, and yes, politically, having often been dire or at least “complicated”.

...so yes, “I gave it the best years of my life”. Like many of you, I could and cannot separate my brain from my heart and from my voice and my pencil and computer keypad. And although, at times, I would have loved to have more time for my family, my music, my photography, the beautiful nature around me, it was all worth it. Through my work, I learnt every day; I have been enriched by you every day. I encountered great people, and I was at many places I would have never dreamed of. With Itai joking around at the speaker’s desk in the UNGA room in New York. With Linda, David and many others doing a flashmob at the Astana Primary Health Care Conference. And, despite my social anxiety disorder (I just found the term on Google), I enjoyed all the intensive moments of just being together, and the shocking experience of what it means not to be able to meet, touch and smell each other because of the pandemic.

Time to say farewell now, and welcome to you, Dear Alessandra. I wish you all the best in your new job. We had such a great and intensive time together since you started your work in early October. Now you are the Executive Secretary of MMI and G2H2, and you are still the only paid employee, and still facing the same struggles, and, hopefully, enjoying the same enriching experiences as I have done, day by day. You gave me the confidence that MMI and G2H2 are in your good young hands, that you have the values, skills, spirit, and dedication needed for this work. So I am confident to say that, for both MMI and G2H2, the best is yet to come.

It is time to say farewell to those of you I will not see again in the next three months. [...]

You have your own stories.

I will not take more of your time.



MMI NETWORK MEMBERS

Africa Christian Health Association Platform

P.O. Box 30690
GPO Nairobi, Kenya
www.africachap.org

AMCES

08 BP 215, Cotonou
Benin
www.amces-benin.org

Centre of Research in Human Reproduction and Demography CERRHUD

llot 191 Patte d'Oie
Awhanlenko Cotonou
Benin
www.cerrhud.org

Community Working Group on Health CWGH

114 McChlery Avenue
Eastlea, Harare
Zimbabwe
www.cwgh.co.zw

Cordaid

P.O. Box 16440
2500 BK The Hague
The Netherlands
www.cordaid.org

Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network EPN

Rosami Court, Fourth Floor
Kilimani Muringa Road
Nairobi, Kenya
www.epnetwork.org

Emergenza Sorrisi

Via Salaria, 95
00198 Roma, Italy
www.emergenzasorrisi.it

Health Poverty Action

Ground Floor
31-33 Bondway
London SW8 1SJ
United Kingdom
www.healthpovertyaction.org

International Health Policy Network, ITM Antwerp

Nationale straat 155
B-2000 Antwerp
Belgium
<http://www.internationalhealthpolicies.org/about-ihp/>

medico international

Lindleystr. 15
60314 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
www.medico.de

Medics without Vacation

Rode Kruisplein 16
2800 Mechelen, Belgium
www.medicswithoutvacation.be

Medicus Mundi Italy

Via Collebeato 26
25127 Brescia, Italy
www.medicusmundi.it

Medicus Mundi Poland Redemptoris Missio

ul. Dabrowskiego 79
60529 Poznan, Poland
www.medicus.amp.edu.pl

Medicus Mundi Spain

c/ Lanuza 9. Local
28028 Madrid, Spain
www.medicusmundi.es

Medicus Mundi Switzerland Network Health for All

Murbacherstrasse 34
4056 Basel, Switzerland
www.medicusmundi.ch

Memisa

Square de Meeûs 19
B – 1050 Brussel
Belgium
www.memisa.be

plan:g

Belruptstraße 21
6900 Bregenz
Austria
www.plan-g.at

Wemos

Ellermanstraat 15-O
P.O. Box 1693
1000 BR Amsterdam
The Netherlands
www.wemos.nl

network
health for all