

Roundtable Discussion

**The Role of Parliamentarians in the
Evolving Architecture of Global Health
Reform**

Date: Monday, October 12th

Time: 8:30 – 10 AM

Location: Terminal 3014, 3rd Floor, Haus der Deutschen
Wirtschaft

Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e. V. (BDI) Breite Straße
29, 10178 Berlin



CONTEXT

UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health and the **German Health Alliance** will convene parliamentarians and cross-sector leaders for an exclusive roundtable reflecting on the major global health reform processes currently underway. The discussion will explore not only the evolving role of parliamentarians in shaping and implementing these reforms, but also the contributions and responsibilities of the wider stakeholders that make up the cross-sectoral health ecosystem.

In 2025, UNITE launched a series of exclusive roundtables designed to provide a frank and open space for dialogue among high-level stakeholders from across and beyond the health sector. These conversations bring actors to reflect on the key challenges and opportunities shaping global health.

At the centre of these discussions is the **potential of parliamentary leadership to accelerate progress on global health priorities** - by strengthening political commitment, advancing enabling policy and legislative environments, supporting accountability, and connecting global ambitions with national action. The roundtables also seek to explore how parliamentarians can work more effectively with other stakeholders, drawing on their respective expertise, resources, and influence, and how UNITE must position itself as a pathway to do so.

THE ISSUE

Global Health has already entered a period of profound transition. A number of major reform processes are unfolding simultaneously, responding to a shared recognition that the existing global health architecture has struggled to deliver sufficient country ownership, sustainable financing, coordination, and resilience.

Importantly, these reforms are not taking place through a single process. Rather, a number of parallel initiatives are seeking to reshape different aspects of the global health system.

As laid out by Seed Global Health and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health's analysis¹, these include efforts such as: **Accra Reset, Africa CDC's Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda, European Donor Alignment, Gavi Leap, Health Works Leaders Coalition, HEAR CSO Consortium, Lusaka Agenda, Sevilla Platform of Action, US Bilateral Health Arrangements, WHO Global Health Architecture Reform Process, Wellcome Trust Convening Dialogues.**

Across these different processes, several common themes are emerging as both urgencies and opportunities:

1. **Greater Country Ownership and Sovereignty:** a growing recognition that countries should have greater agency in defining their health priorities, shaping investments, coordinating external support, and leading implementation.

¹ https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=6753079

2. **More Sustainable and Better-aligned Financing:** need for a greater response to the changing financing environment for global health, including declining or uncertain development assistance, increasing pressure on domestic budgets, and the need to make external financing more coherent with national plans
3. **Stronger National Health Systems:** increasing emphasis on moving beyond individual disease programmes and strengthening the underlying systems required to deliver health: primary health care, supply chains, data systems, institutions, infrastructure, governance, and health workforces.
4. **A Shift from Fragmentation Towards Alignment:** reducing duplication and encourage partners to align behind national strategies rather than creating parallel structures. At the same time, the proliferation of reform processes creates a new coordination challenge: unless these efforts are connected, countries and stakeholders may face overlapping expectations, financing arrangements, reporting requirements, and implementation processes.
5. **A changing role for international and non-state actors:** As countries seek greater ownership, the role of external actors is also evolving. The challenge is to move from fragmented or transactional engagement towards forms of partnership that reinforce nationally led priorities.

DISCUSSION FOCUS

These developments create an important moment for dialogue between parliamentarians and other stakeholders within and beyond the global health landscape.

Parliamentarians have a critical role in shaping the domestic policy, legislative, regulatory, and financing environments through which many global health reforms will ultimately be implemented. They can also provide oversight of how international commitments are translated into national strategies, budgets, institutions, and services.

Against this backdrop, the objective is not to establish a single view of what global health reform should look like, but to create a candid exchange between actors who experience and influence the system in different ways - and to identify where greater understanding, alignment, and collaboration could support implementation.

Therefore, this roundtable will be a facilitated, off-the-record discussion guided by four questions:

- How can multiple reform processes be better connected to reinforce rather than duplicate one another?
- What role should parliamentarians play in translating global reform into national policy, legislation, financing, and accountability?

- What role do you believe your organization should have in designing and implementing multiple reform processes?
- How can different actors measure whether reform is actually strengthening health systems and improving access and outcomes, rather than simply changing institutional structures or financing arrangements?

LOOKING AHEAD

This roundtable builds on the commitments set out in the **Political Declaration**, adopted in August 4th 2026, in Manila, by UNITE Members, following UNITE's flagship event – the UNITE Global Summit.

The Political Declaration reflects the collective commitment of UNITE Members to translate global health priorities into national action, including through stronger legislation, sustainable financing, parliamentary oversight, resilient health systems, equitable access to health products, investment in health and care workforces, climate-resilient health systems, and strengthened multilateral and regional cooperation.

It also recognizes that delivering on these commitments requires action beyond parliaments and governments. **The Declaration calls for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches** and highlights the importance of cooperation across health, finance, education, labour, environment, agriculture, social protection, justice, innovation, and other sectors.

In this context, the roundtable will serve not only as a discussion on global health reform, but also as an opportunity to **take forward the political commitments made by UNITE Members in Manila** - connecting parliamentary leadership with the wider ecosystem of actors needed to turn those commitments into lasting progress for health.

ABOUT

UNITE is the only global network of over 570 current and former parliamentarians, in 121 countries, committed to advancing global health and evidence-based health policies. It is non-partisan, focused on consensus building and fulfils its mission by empowering parliamentarians, strengthening political accountability for health outcomes, promoting cross-border parliamentary diplomacy and political actions to address shared health challenges.

The GHA-German Health Alliance is a multi-stakeholder network of more than 120 members from the German health sector, bringing together companies, academia, civil society organizations, development partners, and policymakers. Through partnerships, knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives, the GHA promotes innovative and sustainable solutions to global health challenges and supports the strengthening of health systems worldwide.