Global Social Observatory
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The Role of Multi-Stakeholder and Multi-Sectoral Collaboration
On the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases
Geneva, 10 January 2012

The Global Social Observatory welcomes the opportunity to support policymakers at the World Health Organization and throughout the United Nations system in implementing the UN Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.   Through a series of participatory roundtable discussions in 2011 and again on 10 January 2012, the GSO is pleased to transmit the following central messages for consideration by policymakers. These messages serve as the framework for the GSO to continue in its support for the WHO, the UN and other complementary initiatives, through multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral collaboration.

1. The NCD Summit and Political Declaration have mobilized increased global recognition of the need for action on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
2. The multi-sectoral nature of the NCD challenge reinforces the idea that "health is in all sectors" but we all need to learn how to be multi-sectoral, and specifically how to engage the diverse "non-health" sectors more effectively.
3. The issues involving multi-sectoral engagement are linked to the issues of multi-stakeholder engagement.
4. Linkages and collaboration between NGOs, the private sector, governments and other stakeholders are essential for successful prevention and control of NCDs.
5. Many stakeholders are already collaborating constructively based on aligned interests, and we must work to promote greater awareness of these initiatives.
6. There is interest in all sectors to align on NCDs, but we need to address any distrust and different perspectives that may make it difficult to find common ground.
7. Principles of engagement can be drawn up to manage conflicts and to make collaborative partnerships work effectively.
8. There is a preference for a constructive approach to reaching agreement on the principles of engagement, shared values and ensuring transparency among sectors.
9. Language and tone are important for defining the contours of the dilemma, with recognition that there is often a lack of common interpretation.
10. There is a continuing need for neutral space to have open and frank discussions on how to engage and combine the capacities of multiple stakeholders and sectors within an ethical framework.