

## **WHA77 Parliamentary Dialogue**

**29 May 2024, 17:30-19:00, UN Palais Salle XXV (Geneva, Switzerland)**

*Followed by reception until 19:30*

### **The role of parliamentarians in moving the global health agenda forward**

The disruptive shock of the COVID-19 pandemic has sharpened global awareness of the value of health and the need for a coordinated global response, including through a stronger World Health Organization (WHO).

Health remains a political choice, where political leaders and parliamentarians have a critical role to play. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the global organization of parliaments, promotes parliamentary engagement on global health in close collaboration with WHO.

In this “super-election year” 2024 – during which almost half of the world’s population will cast its vote – it is critical to ensure that health remains a priority in the political agendas around the world.

In this context, the session will discuss the importance of understanding global health as a central policy issue, the imperative of learning from the COVID-19 pandemic experience and of strengthening global health governance mechanisms, including through a global pandemic agreement and a strong WHO.

The session will discuss the importance of including parliamentarians in key global health forums, such as the World Health Assembly (WHA), given the critical role parliamentarians play in legislating, decision-making on health budgets, keeping governments accountable for commitments taken, representing people’s interests, including on health, and, in particular, in discussions on international tools, such as the pandemic accord, or when budget-related decisions are involved, such as the issue of sustainable financing for the WHO.

The Parliamentary Dialogue aims at discussing the key priorities and main negotiations at the 77th World Health Assembly, with focus on the pandemic agreement and sustainable financing for the WHO and the WHO Investment Round. One other focus will be on how parliaments can move the global health agenda forward at the national level and engage with health stakeholders at different levels to ensure better health for all. The event will draw on lessons learnt from the IPU-WHO long-term collaboration that has shown the importance of maintaining a constant dialogue between policy and science.

### **Objectives**

1. To discuss the role of parliaments on key global health priorities, in particular the pandemic agreement and sustainable financing for the WHO.
2. To promote dialogue between parliamentarians and other health stakeholders.
3. To identify the main lessons learnt from the IPU-WHO collaboration.