

ANNEX B. Commission on Social Determinants of Health recommendations



General objectives	Action areas	Recommendations
1. Improve the conditions of daily life	Early child development	Ensure policy coherence for early child development
		Build universal coverage of comprehensive package of quality early child development programmes and services for children, mothers and other caregivers, regardless of ability to pay
		Provide quality education focused on children's physical, social/emotional, and language/cognitive development, from pre-primary school
		Provide quality compulsory primary and secondary education for all boys and girls, regardless of ability to pay, identify and address the barriers to girls and boys enrolling and staying in school, and abolish user fees for primary school
	Urban development	Establish local participatory governance mechanisms for communities and local government to partner in building healthier and safer cities
		Ensure greater availability of affordable quality housing
		Plan and design urban areas to promote physical activity through investment in active transport; encourage healthy eating through availability of and access to food; and reduce violence and crime through good environmental design and regulatory controls, including control of the number of alcohol outlets
	Rural development	Develop and implement policies and programmes that focus on issues of rural land tenure and rights; year-round rural job opportunities; agricultural development and fairness in international trade arrangements; rural infrastructure, including health, education, roads and services; and policies that protect the health of rural-to-urban migrants
	Climate change	Consider the health equity impact of agriculture, transport, fuel, buildings, industry and waste strategies concerned with adaptation to and mitigation of climate change
	Employment	Full and fair employment and decent work as shared objective of international institutions and a central part of national policy agendas and development strategies, with strengthened representation of workers in the creation of policy, legislation and programmes relating to employment and work
		Develop and implement economic and social policies that provide secure work and a living wage that takes into account the real and current cost of living for health
		Public capacity strengthened to implement regulatory mechanisms to promote and enforce fair employment and decent work standards for all workers
		Reduce insecurity among people in precarious work arrangements, including informal work, temporary work and part-time work through policy and legislation to ensure that wages are based on the real cost of living, social security and support for parents
		Occupational health and safety policy and programmes applied to all workers – formal and informal – and the range expanded to include work-related stressors and behaviours as well as exposure to material hazards
	Social protection	Build universal social protection systems and increase their generosity towards a level that is sufficient for healthy living
		Use targeting only as back-up for those who slip through the net of universal systems
		Ensure that social protection systems extend to include those who are in precarious work, including informal work and household or care work



General objectives	Action areas	Recommendations
1. Improve the conditions of daily life (Next)	Universal health care	Build health care services on the principle of universal coverage of quality services, focusing on primary health care
		Ensure public sector leadership in health care system financing, focusing on tax- and insurance-based funding, ensuring universal coverage of health care regardless of ability to pay, and minimizing out-of-pocket health spending
		Increase investment in medical and health personnel, balancing health-worker density in rural and urban areas
		Address the health human resources brain drain, focusing on investment in training and bilateral agreements to regulate gains and losses
2. Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources	Mainstreaming health equity in all policies and systems	Parliament and equivalent oversight bodies adopt a goal of improving health equity through action on the social determinants of health as a measure of government performance
		Establish a whole-of-government mechanism that is accountable to parliament, chaired at the highest political level possible
		Institutionalization of monitoring of social determinants and health equity indicators, and health equity impact assessment of all government policies, including finance
		Expansion of health sector policy and programmes in health promotion, disease prevention, and health care to include a social determinants of health approach, with leadership from the minister of health
		WHO supports the development of knowledge and capabilities of national ministries of health to work within a social determinants of health framework, and to provide a stewardship role in supporting a social determinants approach across government
	Fiscal policy	Build and strengthen national capacity for progressive taxation
		New national and global public finance mechanisms developed, including special health taxes and global tax options
		Donor countries honour existing commitments by increasing aid to 0.7% of GDP; expand the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative; and coordinate aid use through a social determinants of health framework
		International finance institutions ensure transparent terms and conditions for international borrowing and lending, to help avoid future unsustainable debt
		Establish a cross-government mechanism to allocate budget to action on social determinants of health
		Public resources equitably allocated and monitored between regions and social groups, for example using an equity gauge



General objectives	Action areas	Recommendations
2. Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources (Next)	Market responsibility	WHO, in collaboration with other relevant multilateral agencies and supporting Member States, institutionalizes health equity impact assessment, globally and nationally, of major global, regional and bilateral economic agreements
		Ensure and strengthen representation of public health in domestic and international economic policy negotiations
		Strengthen public sector leadership in the provision of essential health-related goods/services and control of health-damaging commodities
	Gender equity	Create and enforce legislation that promotes gender equity and makes discrimination on the basis of sex illegal
		Set up within the central administration and provide adequate and long-term funding for a gender equity unit that is mandated to analyse and to act on the gender equity implications of policies, programmes and institutional arrangements
		Include the economic contribution of household work, care work and voluntary work in national accounts and strengthen the inclusion of informal work
		Invest in expanding girls' and women's capabilities through investment in formal and vocational education and training
		Support women in their economic roles by guaranteeing pay equity by law, ensuring equal opportunity for employment at all levels, and by setting up family-friendly policies that ensure that women and men can take on care responsibilities in an equal manner
		Increase political commitment to and investment in sexual and reproductive health services and programmes, building to universal coverage
	Political empowerment	National government strengthens the political and legal systems to ensure they promote the equal inclusion of all
		National government acknowledges, legitimizes and supports marginalized groups, in particular indigenous peoples, in policy, legislation and programmes that empower people to represent their needs, claims and rights
		Ensure the fair representation of all groups and communities in decision-making that affects health, and in subsequent programme and service delivery and evaluation
		Empowerment for action on health equity through bottom-up, grass-roots approaches, with support for civil society to develop, strengthen and implement health equity-oriented initiatives
	Global governance	By 2010, the Economic and Social Council, supported by WHO, prepares for consideration by the United Nations the adoption of health equity as a core global development goal
		By 2010, the Economic and Social Council, supported by WHO, prepares for consideration by the United Nations the establishment of thematic social determinants of health working groups
		Institutionalization by WHO of a social determinants of health approach across all working sectors, from headquarters to country level



General objectives	Action areas	Recommendations
3. Measure the problem, evaluate action, expand the knowledge base, develop a workforce that is trained in the social determinants of health, and raise public awareness about the social determinants of health	Monitoring, training and research	<p>Ensure that all children are registered at birth without financial cost to the household</p> <p>Establish national health equity surveillance systems, with routine collection of data on social determinants of health and health inequity</p> <p>WHO stewards the creation of a global health equity surveillance system as part of a wider global governance structure</p> <p>Research funding bodies create a dedicated budget for generation and global sharing of evidence on social determinants of health and health equity, including health equity intervention research</p> <p>Make the social determinants of health a standard and compulsory part of training of medical and health professionals</p> <p>Act to increase understanding of the social determinants of health among non-medical professionals and the general public</p> <p>Build capacity for health equity impact assessment among policy-makers and planners across government departments</p> <p>WHO strengthens its capacity to provide technical support for action on the social determinants of health globally, nationally and locally</p>