



# Multilateralism for GHTC

Overview Brief

July 2018

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advancing **innovation** to save lives

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## Acknowledgments

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## Purpose of this Brief

The purpose of this brief is to provide an overview of the opportunities open to Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) in the multilateral arena, the reasons GHTC engages in this space, and ways in which our members can participate in those opportunities.

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## Why Does GHTC Engage in Multilateral Advocacy?

In short, GHTC engages in multilateral advocacy because multilateral institutions can help advance our objectives in research and development (R&D). By working at the global level, GHTC aims to:

1. Create a policy and normative environment that removes barriers to effective, efficient, collaborative R&D;
  2. Ensure that R&D is a core component of all relevant policy discussions, across all relevant multilateral forums;
  3. Mobilize new commitments to initiatives that support R&D and ensure that previous commitments are honored; and
  4. Provide a platform for our members to engage in the multilateral arena to influence policy and raise their global organizational visibility to enhance their ability to engage in the future.
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## What Organizations Does GHTC Engage With?

There are a variety of multilateral organizations whose mandates touch on global health, but GHTC focuses on those with the most ongoing policy relevance:

- The World Health Organization (WHO)
  - The G7 and G20
  - The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSa)
  - The UN General Assembly and related High-Level Forums (when relevant)
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## What is the Annual Calendar of Multilateral Moments/Opportunities?

Over the course of every year there are several predictable moments and events that represent opportunities or touchpoints for advocacy:

- Late January – Executive Board Meeting (WHO)
- Late May – World Health Assembly (WHO)
- June – G7 Summit (Note: G7 and G20 meetings may shift slightly from year to year)
- Summer – GHSa Steering Group Meeting
- Late September – UN General Assembly Opening Session (UNGA)
- November – G20 Summit (Note: G7 and G20 meetings may shift slightly from year to year)
- Late Winter – GHSa Steering Group Meeting

## Overview of Relevant Multilateral Organizations

### World Health Organization (WHO)

#### What is the World Health Organization?

WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for global public health. It oversees setting global norms, standards, and technical guidance, as well as assisting countries in meeting those standards. It consists of a Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as many country and regional offices around the world. In addition, WHO’s governing bodies—the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly—meet each year to endorse global health policies, set global norms, and guide WHO’s work across technical areas.

#### Why Does GHTC Advocate with WHO?

As the global normative organization for health, WHO’s guidance and standards on technical issues is the “gold standard” by which many countries and organizations set their policies. By influencing how WHO frames its guidance, we can ensure that sound approaches are pushed across the world. Furthermore, WHO serves many functions that support the global R&D ecosystem, including hosting a regulatory function (through the prequalification program), conducting technical assistance to support local R&D capacity development, maintaining the global health R&D observatory, and convening countries to prioritize R&D for epidemic preparedness through the R&D blueprint. By influencing the way WHO carries out these functions, GHTC aims to ensure WHO plays the most effective supporting role for R&D that it can.

#### How You Can Get Involved

GHTC takes advantage of several methods in our advocacy on WHO issues. First, at the very early stages of policy formation, WHO routinely requests input from a broad range of stakeholders across the global health community to inform the initial draft policy. These consultations are a key opportunity to ensure that our key asks are incorporated at an early stage. You can submit your own input in or help shape input on behalf of the coalition. Second, once WHO has circulated the proposed policy to member states, you can work with your organization’s member state contacts to advocate for the inclusion of your target policy language, in partnership with GHTC. Finally, at all stages of the process, GHTC—in partnership with our members—works to inform key WHO staff of our policy concerns and priorities.

### G7 and G20

#### What are the G7 and G20?

The G7 (or Group of 7) consists of the seven countries with the largest, most advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Although the group was initially created to pursue shared macroeconomic stability, its mandate has widened since its founding in 1973 and the G7 summit now serves as a platform for setting general shared priorities.

Like the G7, the G20 was founded to promote economic stability, but as the name implies, consists of 20 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union. The G20 also meets annually and has recently taken up health as a priority issue.

#### Why Does GHTC Advocate at the G7 and G20?

The G7 and G20 were created to address global issues that no other single organization or forum could, and where the UN system does not have the requisite mandate. For example, the 2005 G8 (the predecessor to the G7) summit led to the creation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative in which over US\$40 billion in debt owed by 37 developing countries was written off. Considering that this required the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, donor countries, UN, and other international organizations to come together, the G8 was the only forum with the convening power to make this possible.

Given this unique mandate, the G7 and G20 provide significant opportunities to generate concrete commitments in support of GHTC's work across countries and in Ministries that we might not normally have access to, but who have significant impact on global health R&D (e.g. the Ministries of Finance or Science and Technology). The 2017 G20 summit, for example, committed to creating a collaboration hub for R&D on antimicrobial resistance. By working with partners to influence the deliberations leading up to the summit as well as the outcome document, we can attempt to ensure that the outcome declaration contains concrete, measurable commitments to support global health R&D.

### How You Can Get Involved

In the months leading up to each G7 and G20 summit, the host country typically announces the priority areas for that summit, as well as the dates for a series of consultations that will take place ahead of the summit. These consultative groups are organized by sector, and generally meet 2-3 times prior to submitting their recommendations ahead of the summit. GHTC has found engaging through the business (B7 and B20) and civil society (C7 and C20) groups to be the most fruitful, and partners with our members to amplify our shared messaging. Once the consultative groups have submitted recommendations, advocacy efforts shift to the actual country delegations to ensure that language supporting R&D contained in the submissions makes it into the final declaration as a concrete commitment.

## Global Health Security Agenda (GHTA)

### What is GHTA?

The Global Health Security Agenda (GHTA) was founded in 2014 as a collaboration between countries, civil society, and the UN system to enhance countries' ability to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. It now consists of more than 60 countries and numerous civil society partners and has accelerated its activities in the wake of the 2014 West Africa Ebola outbreak. GHTA supports 11 "action packages" of concrete actions that countries and partners should take to improve specific capacities important to improving health security.

### Why Does GHTC Advocate with GHTA?

One of the key missing components in the current version of GHTA is that it does not include an action package on supporting R&D and the development of R&D capacity, which is vital to ensuring that we have the tools and technologies necessary to support health security. Given that it was founded in 2014 with a five-year mandate, GHTA is currently undergoing a process to develop the framework for its next phase from 2019-2024, and as a result, the time is ripe to ensure that GHTA 2019-2024 includes support for R&D as a central component.

### How You Can Get Involved

The GHTA steering group consists of member countries and select civil society representatives from the Global Health Security Agenda Consortium (GHTAC, the civil society branch of GHTA). GHTC is a member of the GHTAC steering committee. The GHTA steering group met in May 2018 to consider initial inputs for the GHTA 2019-2024 framework and will next meet in Bali in November 2018. GHTC is working with partners to align friendly member countries' support behind an "action package" for R&D. If your country is a member of GHTA, GHTC would be happy to work with you to advocate with your representatives to GHTA to mobilize support for the R&D policies our coalition is proposing. This outreach will take place primarily before the November steering group meeting where the new framework will be approved.

## UN General Assembly (UNGA)

### What is UNGA?

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) is the highest decision-making body in the UN system. It meets year-round, but most activity focused on health takes place around the opening session in late September each year. All member states convene at the UN Headquarters in New York, representing an unparalleled concentration of leaders across government, business, and civil society. Periodically UNGA will host High-Level Meetings (HLMs) to shine a spotlight and political attention on specific issues and to garner political commitments to address them. In addition to the formal agenda, many organizations host side meetings to take advantage of the gathering of world leaders and key influencers.

### Why Does GHTC Advocate with GHSA?

As noted above, UNGA is a singular moment in the global calendar that both sets the agenda for the UN, as well as gathers together a diverse group of top global leadership. Given that health topics regularly feature at UNGA and as the topic of HLMs, UNGAs with health on the agenda become key opportunities for GHTC advocacy. When appropriate, we engage in advance through various consultations and input points, and work to ensure that the General Assembly or HLM resolutions contain statements supportive of our priorities.

In addition, UNGA presents an opportunity to generate significant awareness and enthusiasm around issues that may not have previously been global priorities through convening high-level side events. For example, although R&D was not formally discussed at UNGA 2017, GHTC succeeded in elevating the profile of the economic returns on investments in global health R&D. These types of activities can both encourage concrete action as well as build relationships for future activities.



The Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) works to save and improve lives by encouraging the research and development of essential health technologies. We bring together more than 30 nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and aligned businesses to advance policies to accelerate the creation of new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other tools that bring healthy lives within reach for all people.

[www.ghcoalition.org](http://www.ghcoalition.org)