

Nina Warken
Federal Minister of Health
Mauerstraße 29
10117 Berlin

CC:

Sherpa Team at the Federal Chancellery
Björn Kümmel, Deputy Head of the Division for Global Health at the Federal Ministry of Health

**Health as a Priority of the G7 Presidency:
Appeal by Civil Society Organisations**

26 January 2026

Dear Federal Minister Warken,

Our organisation, active in the Health Working Group of the C7 (Civil Society Engagement Group of the G7), addresses this urgent appeal to the G7 Ministers of Health. We strongly call on you to make health inequalities a central political priority at your first meeting on 29 January and throughout the entire French G7 Presidency.

We welcome the establishment of a ministerial-level working group on health as part of the French G7 Presidency. This step is necessary; however, it will only have an impact if it is accompanied by clear political priorities, binding commitments, and measurable outcomes.

Health must be firmly anchored as one of the core priorities of this G7 Presidency. Overcoming health inequalities is a human rights obligation and at the same time a prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, for economic and social resilience, and for global stability. Inaction in this area not only endangers lives but also undermines trust in international cooperation.

Against this background, we urge the G7 to implement the following measures:

Universal access to health care as a binding goal

Health is a human right and must not be treated as a privilege. Yet more than half of the world's population still lacks access to essential health services. At the same time, non-communicable diseases are increasing, infectious diseases are resurging or threatening to spiral out of control, and the health and nutritional situation of children is deteriorating. Universal health coverage can only be achieved if it is designed in a gender-responsive manner and ensures access to essential sexual and reproductive health services and rights. Without immediate, additional, and ambitious action, the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) will not be met.

Comprehensive strengthening of health financing – including debt relief

We call on the G7 to reverse the drastic decline in public development financing for health. Many low- and middle-income countries are effectively unable to act due to high debt burdens and cannot make the necessary investments in their health systems. Debt cancellation and debt relief are therefore central prerequisites for health sovereignty and sustainable development.

Improved domestic resource mobilisation must be accompanied by reliable, sufficient, and predictable external financing. Short-term, fragmented, or politically conditional financing approaches are inadequate and counterproductive.

Ensuring the financing and continuity of key multilateral health institutions

The G7 must clearly and publicly commit to the long-term strengthening, financing, and political support of key multilateral organisations, in particular the World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. These institutions are indispensable for global health governance, pandemic preparedness, disease control, and the reduction of health inequalities. Weakening them endangers global health security.

The G7 must clearly and publicly commit to the long-term strengthening, financing, and political support of key multilateral organisations. In particular, in light of the upcoming restructuring of the United Nations (UN80 process), it must be ensured that these institutions remain indispensable and integral components of a global health architecture for global health governance, pandemic preparedness, disease control, and the reduction of health inequalities. Their weakening threatens global health security.

Consistent strengthening of multilateral approaches in global health policy

Global health crises cannot be solved unilaterally. We call on the G7 to systematically strengthen multilateral approaches, expand existing effective multilateral instruments, and consistently align them with national priorities, scientific evidence, human rights, and the principle of equity. Meaningful participation of communities in governance and decision-making processes must be ensured.

Global health crises cannot be solved unilaterally. We call on the G7 to systematically strengthen multilateral approaches, expand existing effective multilateral instruments, and consistently align them with national priorities, scientific evidence, human rights, and the principle of equity. This also includes strengthening global health research and its financing in order to develop effective solutions and implement them based on evidence. Civil society must be recognised as an indispensable partner in global health policy and structurally integrated. Civil society organisations and communities contribute significantly to the effectiveness and legitimacy of multilateral measures through their proximity to affected populations, their expertise in prevention, care, and human rights work, and their role as bridges between policy, science, and practice. Substantial, continuous, and adequately resourced participation of communities in governance and decision-making processes must therefore be ensured in order to promote sustainable, context-sensitive, and resilient health systems.

Implementation of an integrated One Health approach

Climate change, environmental pollution, and biodiversity loss exacerbate health risks and threaten global health security. The close interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health requires a coherent One Health approach that prioritises prevention, effectively regulates and taxes health-harming activities and products, and strengthens health systems to be resilient and crisis-proof.

We stand ready to support this process constructively and to assist the G7 in achieving ambitious, binding, and measurable progress.

Yours sincerely,
G7/G20 Working Group of Aktionsbündnis gegen AIDS



Contact:

Peter Wiessner
Aktionsbündnis gegen AIDS
Rungestraße 19
10179 Berlin
+49 (0) 176 82 188 269
wiessner@aktionsbuendnis-aids.de

