



Our vision of Global Health

The think tank Santé mondiale 2030 has been in existence since October 2016. It brings together personalities involved in global health, such as Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Paul Benkimoun, Michel Cot, Sana de Courcelles, François Dabis, Annabel Desgrées du Lou, Jean-François Delfraissy, Frédéric Goyet, Mathieu Lamiaux, Michel Kazatchkine, Marie-Paule Kieny, Lelio Marmora, Benoît Miribel, Olivier Nay, Louis Pizarro, Anna-Laura Ross, Benoît Vallet. Stéphanie Tchiombiano is the coordinator.

This document is the result of a collective work within the group. It does not commit in any way, nor does it reflect the individual opinion of each member.

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Who are we?

Santé mondiale 2030 is an independent think tank founded in October 2016. It brings together individuals from a variety of professional backgrounds who have long been involved in global health issues.

As an independent group, our think tank aims to produce, disseminate and promote ideas, analyses and recommendations likely to influence public policies and strategies of French players in the field of global health.

The group's work is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set an international agenda for the fight against poverty, the protection of the planet and the quest for prosperity by 2030.

What do we do?

Santé mondiale 2030 aims to make recommendations on France's global health policy and to mobilize all stakeholders so that health issues become a strategic focus of French international aid.

We wish to defend issues that meet the essential needs of populations in countries with limited resources, and particularly those that mobilize the strengths and know-how of French global health actors.

Santé mondiale 2030 wishes to engage in a dialogue with all the actors involved in the making of France's international health policy, from public actors to private actors who share our conception of global health, as well as civil society partners and philanthropic organizations.

Why Global Health?

Global health refers to the full range of human health issues that transcend national boundaries. Global health policies seek to improve the health of all people around the world in a spirit of equity, solidarity and effectiveness. They aim to meet people's basic needs and to build sustainable and equitable health systems. These policies aim to strengthen health promotion, prevention, coverage of curative or palliative care, and protection against the financial risks associated with illness. They also aim to improve the effectiveness of emergency interventions in the context of health crises. Global health involves national and international public actors, health professionals, researchers, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and citizens. It calls for collective responses and coordination of efforts at the international level.

Global health is an area of international assistance that has grown particularly rapidly in the 2000s in the context of the Millennium Development Goals. Official health assistance to developing countries in low and middle-income countries grew by 500 per cent between 1990 and 2010¹, mobilizing financial and technical actors, civil society and the private sector.

Global health is a central issue of sustainable development. As education, living in good

¹ "Financing Global Health 2012: the End of the Golden Age?"

health conditions the well-being of people, reduces their vulnerability to discrimination and has a decisive influence on their ability to achieve their choices in society. The "capabilities" of individuals living with low resources are strengthened when they are less exposed to health risks and when they have access to information, prevention, care and treatment². The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 confirm the importance of health for the international community.

The health sector is also an area of growth and a source of employment, mobilising a growing share of the private sector's investments. It therefore requires inclusive governance under the aegis of functional and effective public institutions, working with civil society actors, private partners, and research actors to define a national strategy in each country, invest in health systems and ensure the political and economic conditions necessary for the material so that all individuals and social groups, regardless of their place in society, have the right to live in good health.

Health is finally an inescapable safety issue: infectious diseases and other health crises affect the security of individuals and populations while that the use of pathogens can constitute a weapon in the hands of criminal groups.

In recent years, **global health studies have become a field of international research**. Today, they are developing as a rate that has never been witnessed before. For a long time confined to analyses conducted within the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO), they are now mobilising national research institutes, university laboratories, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and many think tanks. A search on the website of the PubMed database of the U.S. National Library of Medicine shows that nearly 171,000 articles scientists are referenced with the keyword "Global health" as of June 30, 2018 (all areas combined). The growth in global health research has redoubled in recent years: the annual number of publications has passed the 2,000 benchmark, reaching 2,000 publications in 2000, 4,600 in 2007, and rising to over 23,000 in 2017.

Multilateral public aid for health has tended to stagnate since 2014 while needs have continued to increase. Since Donald Trump came to power, the United States has made considerable budget cuts in this area. In addition, new epidemic risks have emerged, even though the major efforts made over the past 20 years have led to unprecedented results in the fight against certain diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and malaria. Health also remains marked by accentuated inequalities within populations, depending on social determinants, environmental and territorial issues. A number of vulnerable countries still face major health challenges, including the rise of chronic non-communicable diseases, chronic undercapacity to train and retain skilled health workers or evaluate programmes, and poorly coordinated, under-resourced and misdirected research.

The many actors involved in France's international policy thus have a major responsibility in defining common objectives bringing together the actors of diplomacy, research, the private sector and international solidarity, in order to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

² Proposed by the economist Amartya Sen and widely used in development thinking, the term "capability" refers to the effective possibility for an individual to make choices and live according to personal aspirations.

Why are we mobilizing?

France is one of the largest providers of international health financing. Its legitimacy in this field is based both on the values of universality and solidarity promoted by its health institutions, the influence of its research and the international recognition of its medical expertise. France is the country of human rights and, in this respect, its national model is a pioneer in terms of health democracy. It has been a key player in the international fight against the three pandemics (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria) for 20 years, playing a key role in the creation of new multilateral funding mechanisms such as the Global Fund and UNITAID. It also has strong and recognized players in the NGO world (Médecins sans Frontières, Médecins du Monde, Solthis, Handicap International, Action Against Hunger, to name but a few examples), the research sector (Inserm, ANRS, IRD, Instituts Pasteur, CIRAD), public agencies (AFD, Expertise France) and the private sector (Sanofi, Mérieux).

Nevertheless, over the last 20 years, France has lost influence in international institutions and partnership platforms in health. It often appears isolated in the face of German, British and American partners who coordinate their actions more closely, push for assumed choices and occupy key positions in international institutions.

We are convinced that France can only be heard and listened to in the international arena of global health when its actors - starting with those in diplomacy - manage to convey a strong and coherent message, structured around clear and stable objectives, carried by values that are attached to the history of health in France.

Our vision of global health

Health is a fundamental human right. It is also a global public good. Universal access to health and the building of sustainable health systems make a decisive contribution to the inclusive development of societies and to peace.

- **Health is a fundamental right**
 - Every man, woman and child has the right to live in good health, regardless of income, social status, group membership, gender, age or place of residence. Health is a fundamental right, as are education, access to water, housing and respect for one's own culture. It is a consubstantial component of human capital.
 - For this reason, we strongly support the principle of universal health coverage, in all its dimensions, in order to ensure that every human being has access to basic health services. This ambition is today shared by a large part of the international community, but it is also threatened by those who consider that the health sector can be limited to the production of marketable services that could be accessed within the limits of its resources.
 - The promotion of universal health coverage implies the recognition that there are still strong social inequalities in health in many countries, starting with our own. In many cases, this inequality is increasing rather than decreasing. Any international ambition implies considering the implementation of solidarity measures to enable the poorest to protect their rights. Financing health innovation and the creation of health care centres is a good thing... as long as everyone can access them according to their needs and not in proportion to their resources.

- **Global health is a global public good**
 - In today's globalized world, many health risks now have international implications, particularly infectious diseases that spread rapidly across national borders and sometimes intercontinentally. Conversely, many risk factors stem from transnational or global phenomena that cannot be regulated at the national level, such as climatic factors, pollution, transnational migration, the practices of large private sector multinationals (pharmaceuticals, agri-food, tobacco), cross-border wars, or the instability of investments and capital movements.
 - We therefore believe that it is fundamental to conceive global health as an issue requiring solutions that are collectively thought out, coordinated and implemented. We support all measures that can be taken in multilateral fora. Collaboration between public donors and recipient governments, philanthropic actors, private actors, health NGOs and organizations representing civil society, including those representing patients and users of health systems, is a condition for effective responses at the international level.

- **Health issues are also social issues**
 - Like education or the protection of our environment, health is an issue whose consideration has an impact on the future of the whole society. Where it has been associated with a principle of equity, universality and solidarity, it is a pillar of the social contract around which 'living together' is consolidated. It is an essential element of social justice, because universality enables the most vulnerable to preserve their rights and to participate in society, even when ill or disabled.
 - Health democracy is a fundamental condition for the development of fair and effective health systems. We believe it is essential that citizens find their place alongside public institutions, private actors, doctors, scientists and experts. It is not possible to increase the participation of individuals in social life - so-called "social capital" - without improving access to health.
 - Health is a lever for the social and economic empowerment of women. Indeed, women are often the first to suffer from conditions of discrimination in access to health services; with improved access to health, they can better defend their rights and those of their children. They also find numerous professional opportunities in the health sector, given the strong feminisation of jobs³.
 - Finally, a growing number of studies demonstrate the impact of environmental issues on the health of populations. Beyond the direct modifications of our ecosystem⁴, climate change will have considerable repercussions on world food production, on our livelihoods, on human migration, on the international economy and, of course, on our health.

³ In a sample of 123 countries, women account for 67 per cent of jobs in the health and social sector, compared to 41 per cent of total employment. Source: WHO, Final report of the expert group of the High-level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth, Geneva, Sept. 2016.

⁴ Increase in atmospheric temperature, changes in rainfall, melting ice, ocean acidification, rising sea and ocean levels, increase in extreme weather events (heat waves, droughts, floods, cyclones, etc.).

- **Health is a central issue in the economy and the fight against poverty**
 - Health is affected by conditions of poverty, both at the household and population levels. While there is not always a causal link between the two phenomena, there are many correlations. Poor countries are also those with the most fragile health systems. Households faced with disease face insurmountable risks of impoverishment in the face of health expenditure. Individuals in poor health leave employment more quickly and are the first to suffer social discrimination. Conversely, poverty is a barrier preventing people from accessing basic health services, especially prevention, which can prevent or delay the onset of disease.
 - More broadly, health is an essential sector for economic growth. Technological innovation and the production of quality health services require significant public, mixed or private investment. The development of the health sector is accompanied by numerous direct or indirect high value-added job creations. For low- and middle-income countries, health is therefore an issue for lifting people out of poverty. It must be considered as an investment, not a cost.

- **Health is an element of security and peace**
 - Often, the notion of "health security" is put forward by the diplomats of rich countries to anticipate health threats to their own national security, in particular to prevent, detect and reduce epidemic risks. This interpretation of health security is of course important, but the concept deserves to be broadened.
 - Health security covers a broad spectrum from individual human security to international stability. It concerns the protection of populations in both poor and rich countries. It is linked to the development of infectious diseases, the serious humanitarian and health consequences of which can be immediate. However, it must also take account of more structural problems: the presence of chronic non-communicable diseases, the failure to provide care or social inequalities in health which have repercussions on the capacity of security personnel (police, army, civil protection), the quality of public services, the level of economic activity, relations between population groups, and migratory choices which, in turn, have transnational and international consequences that affect the security of other populations.

In conclusion, global health is a multidimensional issue. It touches on human rights, development and security. It is affected by technological and biomedical innovation, by the quality of research and by governance and public regulation measures. It depends on the ability of various actors to cooperate and produce collective intelligence. It is positively correlated with the protection of fundamental rights, education for all and environmental protection. It is the essential condition for a decent life. It is also one of the pillars without which human, sustainable and inclusive development cannot be envisaged.

There can be no magic solution. National formulas are limited. Unilateral policies are counterproductive. Therefore, global health actors must be based on a strategic vision that accepts the complexity of international health issues. They must also be able to define broad priorities that can meet the long-term challenges posed by globalization, increased human exchanges, demographic transitions and the upheavals brought about by climate change. Global health requires an investment commensurate with the values that France upholds and its ongoing financial commitment in this area.