

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE G20 ON THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

The G20 Summit, which this year focuses on ‘Shaping an Interconnected World’, is an important opportunity for G20 countries – which together constitute almost two-thirds of the global population, more than 80 per cent of global GDP and three-quarters of worldwide trade - to affirm their collective commitment to ensuring that human rights are a fundamental part of the framework of interconnectivity that is developing and envisaged, thus setting an important example to the rest of the world.

Amnesty International welcomes the focus on making progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the summit. Implementation of the Agenda should ensure universal respect for human rights and human dignity and recognize that in our increasingly interconnected world, economic policy and development must be developed and targeted in ways to reduce inequalities and ensure that no one is left behind whilst promoting effective accountability for all stakeholders. In this respect, we urge all members of the G20, to pay particular attention to Goals 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries) and 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels).

THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

Amnesty International welcomes the recognition in the Berlin Declaration¹ of G20 Health Ministers that “[s]trong, accessible, affordable and sustainable health systems, including preventative and curative services are a foundation for inclusive economic growth, prosperity, social cohesion and quality of life”, as well as their commitment to promoting health and to achieving the health-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. In this respect, the G20 has an important role to play in ensuring universal health care for all persons, and reaffirming support for the full realization of all aspects of the right to health, including through a human rights-based approach to healthcare services provision.

Public health systems often do not adequately address the health needs of specific groups which are at risk of discrimination, sometimes resulting in poorer health outcomes and violations of their right to health. It is essential to urgently prioritize building the capacity of health systems to address the health needs of groups that are marginalized or face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. This means ensuring that healthcare services are available, accessible, acceptable to them, and of good quality, and that they are delivered through a rights-based approach, without discrimination or coercion, and respecting patients’ privacy, confidentiality, and informed consent.

A crucial aspect of, both, achieving universal health care and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, is ensuring robust mechanisms for accountability. On the one hand, this involves ensuring accountability within health systems, including by investing in collecting data disaggregated by all relevant prohibited grounds of discrimination, so as to guarantee that no one is denied healthcare due to discrimination, including intersectional discrimination; establishing effective complaint and redress mechanisms at healthcare facilities; and ensuring patients’ participation in the design and

¹ Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, *Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow*, adopted in Berlin, 19-20 May 2017, available at https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/3_Downloads/G/G20-Gesundheitsministertreffen/G20_Health_Ministers_Declaration_engl.pdf

assessment of the health systems. On the other hand, governments should ensure that people are able to use the law to enforce their right to health, and to access effective remedies for any violations of these rights.

Amnesty International calls on all G20 member states to commit to:

- **Ensuring that the final summit communiqué includes a commitment to Universal Health Care and developing and strengthening public health systems in line with international human rights law and standards, including by ensuring that public health systems are adequately financed, are accessible to everyone without discrimination, and address the specific needs of marginalized groups;**
- **Investing in human rights training for health workers, including around women and girls' sexual and reproductive rights, the rights of marginalized groups, and the rights of young people to youth-friendly, non-judgmental health services that respect privacy and confidentiality and evolving capacities of adolescents;**
- **Developing robust accountability mechanisms in all health systems, including the collection of data disaggregated by all relevant prohibited grounds of discrimination, periodic monitoring and review of all initiatives with the participation of service users, and access to effective remedies for violations of the right to health.**