

G20

Joint Finance and Health Task Force concludes its final meeting under Brazil's Presidency

The meeting took place this Monday (9/9), with discussions on social determinants for health equality, among other priorities

On Monday, September 9th, the G20 Joint Finance and Health Task Force held its third and final meeting under Brazil's presidency, focusing on key issues such as the social determinants of health equity, debt-for-health swaps, and the links between socioeconomic vulnerabilities and pandemic-related risks.

These discussions are part of a broader dialogue on boosting investments in sustainable development related to health and pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. Addressing inequalities and promoting sustainable development are key to Brazil's G20 presidency, which began on December 1st and will continue until November 30th, 2024.

Throughout the presidency, meetings, side events, and the preparation of reports for the G20 presidency culminated in this successful final meeting. Four preliminary documents were submitted for review to country representatives, aligning with the Group Work Plan and reflecting the insights and data gathered by the task force. Comments on these documents are welcome until September 19th, with the final versions expected to be presented at the G20 Finance and Health Ministers' joint meeting on October 31st in Rio de Janeiro.

“It is with great pleasure that we reach the last meeting of the Joint Finance Health Taskforce before the Ministerial Meeting on October 31st. As the Brazilian Presidency of the G20, our focus is on combating hunger and poverty. The pursuit of equity should be the guiding principle for

policies aimed at PPPR, based on strong and resilient health systems that ensure universal access to health and universal health coverage”, said Rafaela Batista, Head of the Multilateral Issues Division of the Special Advisory Office for International Affairs of the Ministry of Health.

Indicators and Swaps

The Policy Note on Social Determinants of Health under Priority 1 incorporated significant feedback from a side event held in June. This document aims to provide key indicators for inclusion in the G20 Global Report.

To ensure close coordination with the G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group and avoid duplicating efforts in debt-for-development (DfD) initiatives, the Brazilian presidency took the lead on drafting the Policy Report on Debt-for-Health Swap Arrangements under Priority 2.

"Debt-for-health swaps can contribute to sustainable development and improve global health outcomes, aligning with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements," stated Antonio Freitas, Undersecretary of International Finance and Economic Cooperation at the Brazilian Ministry of Finance, during his opening remarks.

Additionally, Monday's agenda included an update on *mpox*, a zoonotic viral disease that the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified as a public health emergency in Africa. Presentations underscored the importance of lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic. This focus led to the development of the Operational Playbook under Priority 3, intended as a tangible resource for combating health emergencies.

"Interconnected Pillars"

"The three priorities are interconnected, highlighting the need to view finance and health as mutually reinforcing pillars in our efforts to reduce inequalities, promote sustainable development, and enhance our capacity for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response," emphasized Freitas.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance expressed his gratitude to the WHO and the World Bank for their support of the Task Force's work. He also thanked the countries that co-hosted the meeting with Brazil: Italy and Indonesia. Lastly, Freitas acknowledged the significant contributions from the Brazilian Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs.