



Geneva Health Forum 2008

Strengthening Health Systems and the Global Health Workforce

Public-Private Partnerships: The Human Factor

Monday, 26 May 2008

14:00-15:30

International Conference Centre Geneva
Room 17

Session Outline

Over the past decade, the role of coalitions and partnerships designed to address important global development and health problems has become more prominent. As the complexity of global health issues and infrastructure has increased, the ability of global health leaders to form and work in coalitions has become a critical skill.

Because of the public/private nature of many of these global program partnerships, much attention was paid initially on developing institutional frameworks and governance structures that attempted to strike the right balance between inclusiveness and effectiveness on the one hand, and between excessive looseness and excessive institutionalisation on the other hand. In doing so, discussions among partners tended to concentrate on governance/structural issues, less on programmatic issues, and almost never on the “human chemistry” dimension of effective partnerships and coalitions.

In short, the focus has been more on the “hardware” dimension (e.g. the structure that binds the partners together, expressed in a constitution or agreement, meetings and procedures) and not sufficiently on the “software” dimension, (e.g. the skills and chemistry that are needed for people to effectively work together, including the ability to mitigate turf issues to advance a shared partnership agenda).

This parallel session aims at debating this central and so far neglected “software” dimension of the Health Public-Private Partnership.