

## **CATALYZING COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AND LEGISLATORS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO HEALTH FOR ALL**

### **Speakers/Facilitators:**

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Beatrix Vas is the Policy Coordinator of the Drug Policy Desk of UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health, where she provides technical assistance on evidence-based drug policies rooted in public health and human rights. Beatrix holds a Master of Public Administration from the Central European University.

Ricardo Baptista Leite is the Founder & President of UNITE, a global network of parliamentarians committed towards the promotion of efficient and sustainable policies for improved global health systems worldwide, in alignment with the UN SDGs. Since 2011, Ricardo is a Member of the Portuguese National Parliament where he is the Vice-President of the Social Democratic Party Parliamentary Board.

### **Background and aims:**

UNITE is a non-profit, non-partisan, global network of current and former members of parliament from multinational, national, state, and regional Parliaments, Congresses, and Senates, committed towards the promotion of efficient and sustainable policies for improved global health systems, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Promoting human rights and equitable access to health is at the core of our activities. Our members work to ensure that everyone, everywhere can achieve the highest attainable standard of health, with an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized populations facing greater difficulties in access to health services. In the effort, our network is actively engaged in building bridges between communities and civil society, experts, academia, governments, international organizations and other key stakeholders to create a dynamic platform of debate and initiative in global health, and in the drug policy reform sphere.

### **Description of workshop:**

The workshop will bring together elected officials and communities of people who use drugs and civil society organizations from multiple regions and provide space to share experiences of building alliances and working in coalition to ensure access to adequate health services for people who use drugs, particularly in support of developing and implementing harm reduction policies and programs.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss in breakout groups how MPs, civil society and service providers can work and advocate together, including sharing successful examples, challenges, and highlighting potential national and regional differences in approaches. Based on the discussions, a blueprint for catalyzing collaboration between communities and legislators can be developed.

### **Methods and format:**

Moderated interactive workshop, blended micro and macro group discussions

### **Number of delegates:**

50

**Disclosure of Interest Statement**

*The conference collaborators recognise the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in publications and presentations.*