

Accompanying Information on GAHP and the Incorporation Process

1. What is GAHP and what does it do?

GAHP is a collaborative network of 60+ members that advocates for resources and solutions to pollution and health problems on behalf of its low- and middle-income country (LMIC) members. It serves as a platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration for all types of pollution.

2. Why was GAHP created?

Before 2012, the scope of health impacts of pollution was unknown, under-recognized, underfunded and not mainstreamed or a priority in the global development agenda. Initial research indicated it was a major public health problem, particularly for LMICs, and warrants a global response.

However, no one was focusing on this neglected area as a whole. Existing responses were siloed into chemicals, MEAs, and sometimes air pollution, and no one was looking at pollution as a whole from a health perspective.

GAHP was created in 2012 by Pure Earth, the World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, Asian Development Bank, the European Commission, Ministries of Environment and Health of many LMICs to draw attention and resources to the issue and elevate it as an international (and national) development priority

3. What does GAHP do?

GAHP builds *demand* for pollution prevention and mitigation and public, political, technical and financial support to address pollution and health problems, especially in LMICs, primarily through:

- a. Advocacy and Awareness
 - i. Raising awareness about impacts of all types of pollution on health globally
 - ii. Promoting scientific research on pollution and health
- b. Assisting LMICs to prioritize and address pollution through health and pollution action planning (HPAP) and other activities

GAHP also takes on specific projects related to pollution and health on an as needed basis.

4. How is GAHP different from all the other initiatives and existing alliances that are out there?

Currently, GAHP is the only organization operating in this space, addressing the impact of all types of pollution on health, and advocating on behalf of the 9 million lives lost each year because of pollution.

The focus on health is lacking for most organizations, except of course WHO for whom it is their priority. But a single UN agency cannot take on this issue in as broad a fashion as is needed, as it is limited by its own structures in its reach to pursue this agenda. An integrated effort to bring all sectors into play, not just health, but also environment, transport, finance, industry, NGOs and the private sector is needed to collaborate for effective programs and policies.

Other organizations deal with one or two types of pollution but not comprehensively with all forms of pollution. For example the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) focuses on chemicals and waste issues but not on air pollution. Likewise, air pollution efforts, such as the Global Alliance on Climate and Health or the Climate and Clean Air Coalition do not focus on soil or water pollution.

Furthermore, GAHP is the only organization focusing on health impact as a means to set priorities to combat pollution.

Please refer to the landscape analysis at the end of this document for a visual map of *major* existing initiatives in the pollution arena. Kindly note it is *not* to scale and *not* reflective of all exiting initiatives or all links between actors.

5. Why do we need GAHP?

GAHP is the only organization:

- whose core focus is to bring attention and resources to pollution and health issues, especially in low- and middle-income countries.
- advocating for the health impacts of pollution to be given a greater role in setting the international aid agenda.
- convening interested stakeholders from the donor community, affected countries, academia, civil society, the UN and private sector to strategize and coordinate solutions at the country and global level.

GAHP is at the forefront of generating arguments (and the data and science behind them) that resonate with decision makers for investing in solutions to pollution and health problems.

Last but not least, GAHP has an extremely useful metric for prioritizing and monitoring action that can be valuable to all – health. Although targeted in the SDGs (in Health Goal's Target 3.9), pollution-attributed disease is not included as an indicator. However, it is included in the Global Burden of Disease reports, and can be used to measure progress.

4. What are the benefits of GAHP membership?

There are many benefits to joining GAHP. Members can:

- *Help shape the global response to pollution.*
 - Members have a say in the strategic direction of GAHP, including initiatives with global impact. GAHP membership provides an opportunity to contribute to the overall global push for resources and attention to pollution, more than can be achieved individually. Our growing membership illustrates there is significant demand to address pollution.
 - GAHP is a nimble organization. Our efficiency/ability means we can achieve or influence things at a faster pace than may be possible through the formal UN system, inter-governmental bodies, or through formal government channels.
- *Participate in GAHP activities*, including health and pollution action plans, communications campaigns, and contribute to messaging.
- *Gain access to technical expertise, resources and international network.*
 - Directly link to government agencies/representatives and other stakeholders working to solve pollution and health problems on the ground.
 - Voice your country or constituency's need directly to donors and the international community.
 - Share materials, reports, events with our network.

The Incorporation Process

6. Why incorporate now?

The idea for incorporation started in 2014. GAHP engaged Freshfields LLP to provide pro bono law expertise, and at GAHP's annual meeting in September 2014, initial governance structure options and draft incorporation documents (Statutes and Regulations) were presented and discussed.

In 2015, initial consultations with GAHP members and interested stakeholders were helped but the consensus was that GAHP needed to prove itself prior to incorporation.

In 2017, an EC/UNIDO funded independent assessment of GAHP recommended incorporation and improvements to GAHP's governance structure. Discussions with GAHP members and observers in 2018 confirmed hesitancy to invest in unincorporated GAHP.

In October 2018 the Executive Committee decided to proceed with incorporation in 2019.

- In just six years, GAHP proved itself an effective advocate, thought leader, and agent of change. GAHP ensured all types of pollution were included in Health Goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (as Target 3.9), and spearheaded the groundbreaking Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health (2017).
- GAHP needs to legally separate from its founder and host Pure Earth to
 - Be sustainable
 - Maintain transparency
 - Ensure GAHP members have a real stake in its operations and activities.

7. What does incorporation mean for existing members?

Incorporation will grant addition legitimacy to GAHP, and allow it to directly receive funding for its activities.

For most members, especially LMIC governments, incorporation will have little impact on day-to-day activities. The Secretariat will continue to deliver services to members as per annual plans and budgets.

However, incorporation will offer more concrete opportunities for members to participate in GAHP's governance structure and operations. Participation in GAHP governance is designed to avoid large time commitments (see below for more information on how members can participate in the GAHP governance structure).

8. What is involved in incorporation?

Incorporation principally involves filing two key documents – the Statutes and the Regulations with the Swiss authorities.

- **Statutes**, a simple establishment document. The Statutes document is largely driven by the requirements of the Swiss authorities. The Statutes are very difficult to change (only after 3 years and only with the approval of the Swiss Supervisory Authority, which oversees the organization) and should therefore be as broad and flexible as possible.
- **Regulations**, a second establishment document that defines the details of GAHP's governance structure. This document can be changed by the GAHP Board. Unless there are time constraints, the GAHP Council will be consulted on any changes to the Regulations.

We modelled these two documents closely after the governance documents of the Global Fund, GAVI and WWF. Both our texts were initially drafted with the input from many GAHP members and observers, starting back in 2014.

The documents have undergone extensive discussion and review by the GAHP team, Swiss lawyers and lawyers from Freshfields, LLP, as well as initial consultation with the Swiss authorities.

We are now distributing these documents for review and feedback with the GAHP membership, as well as consulting with other interested stakeholders to ensure the proposed GAHP governance structure works for as many stakeholders as possible.

In May 2019, GAHP will host a meeting of its members and interested stakeholders to finalize and approve these two documents, establish the first Board, and proceed with incorporation.

9. How will GAHP members get a say in GAHP's strategy or participate in its activities?

GAHP members can participate in several ways:

- **GAHP Board.** The Board is the supreme governing body of GAHP. It has seats reserved for representatives of the different member constituencies of GAHP with rotating four-year terms. The Board meets quarterly by primarily virtual means (teleconference or video conference).
- **GAHP Council.** The GAHP Council is the broader membership of GAHP, and part of GAHP's governance structure. The Council provides advice and recommendation to the GAHP Board related to GAHPs strategy, objectives, activities and general policies. It also recommends Board Members. It meets at least once every two years in person in the sidelines of major international environment events. Virtual participation is always possible.
- **GAHP Committees.** Any member can participate on one or more GAHP committees, which assist the Board to make decisions. Committee members share guidance and expertise, and assist in the design and implementation of GAHP activities and policies. Committees meet quarterly by virtual means.
- **GAHP Activities.** GAHP activities may be implemented with one or more GAHP members, as outlined in the Strategic Plan or annual work plans. GAHP members may also propose activities and funding opportunities through the GAHP Council or Secretariat directly. GAHP members or staff wishing to participate in GAHP activities should contact the Secretariat directly. The Secretariat will be responsible for developing and implementing all activities, including any selection criteria.

It is important to note that GAHP decisions are not binding on GAHP Council members, and activities, such as reports, will operate under the caveat that they are not necessarily reflective of the will or opinions of individual GAHP members.

10. Why will GAHP incorporate as a foundation rather than an association?

In 2014, GAHP requested Freshfields LLP to conduct an analysis of the different types of legal forms GAHP could take. The Executive Committee, in consultation with members, determined that a foundation posed the greatest flexibility whilst providing the greatest amount of transparency and oversight needed for credibility at the international level. Conversely, Swiss associations are easy to set up but are not as transparent, and are not required to report to the Swiss authorities. A number of model organizations that follow a similar structure as GAHP (including GAVI and the Global Fund) are formed as foundations in Switzerland. Swiss foundations report to the Swiss Supervisory Authority, which ensures compliance with transparency, reporting and audit requirements.

11. How will the GAHP Secretariat be staffed?

The Board will appoint an Executive Director to head the GAHP Secretariat. The Executive Director will then hire staff according to hiring policies and procedures approved by the Board, and existing laws. In order to ensure continuity, the initial GAHP Secretariat should be staffed by seconded staff from Pure Earth. Moving forward, any

open positions would be filled as per the Board approved policies/procedures. The GAHP Council may make recommendations to the Board for consideration regarding those policies/procedures.

Other questions? Please contact Rachael Kupka at rachael@gahp.net