**Informal Meeting of 13th May 1pm-2pm @IPJ Office 1 Richard Wagner Geneva**

**Present: People's Health Movement, International Commission of Jurists,**

**Public Services International,** [**International-Lawyers.Org**](http://International-Lawyers.Org/)**, Association of**

**World Citizens.**

The dialogue was convened to discuss a NGO interest in encouraging a resolution on the right to health by the World Health Assembly.

It was pointed out that for the 66 years of its existence the WHA has never adopted such a resolution.

Many states support this initiative as it would reaffirm what they already agreed to, but the WHO itself has not implemented the rights-based approach to health.

It was noted that numerous member states have responded positively to this initiative, some at very senior levels.

It was suggested to rigorously define what the "right to health" means, but this appeared to be too large a task for a WHA resolution.

It was pointed out that many states believe that there is general understanding of the general components of the right to health and rigidly defining might break a consensus. We have had a long standing debate on value of adopting a rights based approach but we think it is time to move on and look ahead, by trying to encourage a rights based approach, also because there is no disagreement that it would further empower NGOs.

Furthermore, "Right to health" and "Human rights based approach to health" as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights understands it, and in our understanding are one and the same.

Cooperation between NGOS who see value in a resolution on the Right to Health, even a weak resolution can be very valuable.

On 28 May 2013 (first week of HRC23) in room VIII from 12:00 to 14:00 we will convene another dialogue on the Right to Health focusing on Synergies between WHO and the HRC. We encourage any of you or your organizations to suggest persons to lead the dialogue. We hope there will be two or three people to open the conversation with ideas or questions based on short (5 to a maximum of 10 minute presentations).