Reforming the World Health Organization: innovations in the global governance of health

The World Health Organization (WHO) has a powerful mandate to act as the global coordinating authority for improving human health. At the present time, however, WHO finds itself overshadowed by global public/private health initiatives (eg the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria), large bilateral programs (eg the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief: PEPFAR), as well as private philanthropies with global reach (the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). WHO’s funding base limits the scope of its activities, and as a specialised UN agency controlled by members, WHO is subject to political pressures from member countries, from the private sector and from civil society.

In this seminar, Professor Lawrence Gostin, an eminent public health lawyer and global health advocate, will draw on his work with the WHO on governance reform, outlining the challenges the organisation faces, and explaining how reform of WHO could both re-assert its unique capacity for global leadership and lead to improvements in global health.

Keynote Speaker: Professor Lawrence Gostin
Director, O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law
Georgetown University; Director, WHO Collaborating Centre on Public Health Law & Human Rights

Chair: Associate Professor Rebecca Ivers
Director, Injury Division, The George Institute for Global Health

Responders: Professor Stephen Leeder
Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine
The University of Sydney

Associate Professor Stephen Jan
Senior Health Economist, Renal & Metabolic Division
The George Institute for Global Health

Q&A panel discussion

Date: Tuesday 2 August 2011
Time: Registration and refreshments 5.30 - 6.00pm
Lecture 6.00 - 7.30pm
Venue: Law Foyer, Level 2, New Law Building (F10), The University of Sydney
For more information, please call Sydney Law School Events on tel: (02) 9351 0429.