

LINKING A GLOBAL "CORE AGENDA" WITH REGIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN HEALTH

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"The future lies in broadening the horizon of the interplay between the biomedical and social sciences and in the transdisciplinary synthesis of sciences and technology with society's needs and values in a changing world" (Dr. Ramalingaswami, 1986).

PURPOSE, PROCESS and FUNCTIONS

RATIONALE OF THE IFSSH

The International Forum for Social Sciences in Health (IFSSH) proposes an agenda for a global colloquy of social and health scientists in order to advance the relevance of social sciences to health and to increase equity in health and health care. It was established on the premise that the social sciences have broadened our understanding of health. The diversity of the social science disciplines, in collaboration with biomedical and health scientists, provide potential strength that enable the social sciences to play a major role in the pursuit of innovative means to remedy the unequal distribution of resources devoted to health and to enhance the health status of all the world's populations.

The IFSSH has been organized out of an evolving shared image of many social and health scientists, who participated directly and indirectly in a series of discussions about the purpose of, and qualities

necessary for, a mutually-constructed global organization. It has been designed, in recognition of this evolving shared image, to promote communication and collaboration across disciplinary and regional boundaries. The IFSSH is organized in regional and global tiers; currently Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America are represented by regional task force planning groups. At the global level, the IFSSH is managed by a Secretariat, and each regional group is represented within the global Steering Committee.

GENERAL GOALS

The International Forum for Social Sciences in Health is a colloquy of social and health scientists who share the following commitments:

1. to build up a global forum of social and health scientists, who will provide support and encouragement to colleagues in the social science and health disciplines.