

# Review of: "International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in Humanitarian Field: why and how to engage with Planetary Health?"

Luz Muñoz<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Barcelona

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article addresses a substantial issue on the development aid agenda which is interconnecting the climatic crisis with a more general and comprehensive frame on health security, advocating for greater involvement of INGOs in the creation and establishment of what the authors call the Planetary Health framing. The authors do a good job of arguing for the need for this change in the mindset of experts and NGOs, as well as giving a number of guidelines or tips on how to achieve it.

If we look now to the articulation of the argument, as far as I understand it, the questions raised in the article are: is Planetary Health just one step more in the endless process of restructuration of the humanitarian organization (and jargon) or a signal of a new critical junctures (or a paradigm shift)? Does Planetary Health offer a useful frame for rethinking humanitarian action in a changing and bankrupted biosphere, fostering systemic transformation of deep roots of health inequity? The answers seem to be, in the first case that Planetary health must be understood as a paradigm shift and not just a jargon and the answer to the second question is yes.

I can agree with the authors, but as a scientific article I consider that a clearer and more concise theoretical framework from which the analysis is derived is needed, as well as methodological clarification. How are the recommendations and conclusions reached? It is all the result of the debate that may exist in the public sphere and therefore the article is not a scientific contribution but an opinion article that makes a contribution to the debate to which it interpellates? Do the authors have done interviews or use another qualitative method? Why this method is the adequate in this case? I think the article needs to clarify systematically these points before being in good shape.

In relation, to the analysis the article refers to INGOs in particular, which may be relevant; however, they do not operate in a vacuum, these organizations are immersed in a set of institutional rules that determine their actions and limit the scope of their objectives. In my opinion, the article would benefit from including the various analyses that exist on the role of INGOs as political actors. Likewise, since the focus is on the importance of framing, the article would benefit from taking into account the analyses that have been carried out on the framing process of public policy, both locally and globally. It does not depend solely on the behaviour of NGOs and experts that there can be a framing change, let alone a paradigm shift, in which other institutions must necessarily intervene. In the literature on agenda setting and public policy, previous works can be found that can help improve the article by including in the equation the importance of institutions and the

political process in the international sphere.