WHO: Democratic governance - at global and national level

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WHO Reform and Global Health Governance
WHO governance
- at global level
WHO as an intergovernmental organization

WHO as sole global legal health authority

Decision making supremacy lies with WHO’s governing bodies

“WHO belongs to the member states”
But who are the owners of the WHO?

Who are their representatives at the WHO meetings?

For whom do they speak?

What positions on agenda items do they bring along?

How have these positions been developed and shaped?

Are they coherent with the country’s position in other fora?
...and to whom will the delegates report back after the meeting?

...and what mechanisms exist to control that the country fulfils its commitments resulting from a decision it supported (e.g. WHA resolution)?
Who are the delegates at the WHO meetings? But who are these owners of the WHO? And what mechanisms exist to control that the country who will they speak? And to whom will the delegates report back after the meeting?c Are they coherent with the country's position in other fora?c And what mechanisms exist to control that the country...start at home
“Informed opinion and active co-operation on the part of the public are of the utmost importance in the improvement of the health of the people.”

Preamble of the WHO constitution
Define, implement and monitor instruments for engaging civil society

...not only in health care and in domestic health policy

...but also in the making of positions on global health issues and on issues related to health in all policies
Define, implement and monitor instruments for engaging civil society

...this might be easier if you consider civil society not just as a “non-state actor”, but as integrated part of the “extended state” (Antonio Gramsci)
Instruments for engaging civil society

National Health Assembly
Pre-WHA hearings
Thematic hearings
Integrate civil society in WHA delegation
Health Foreign Policy
Strong role of the Parliament
WHO Country Cooperation Strategy
Many roads lead to Rome,
but you can only get there
if you start walking.

...rooted in the political culture and
the existing institutional settings of
every country

...pay attention to them!
...share best practices!
...learn from your peers!
...and back to the global and regional level:

WHO: encourage and support member states (annual award?)

WHO: instruments to improve access of civil society to the decision shaping and decision making processes of the World Health Organization.
Civil Society initiative

COI

NGO policy +

"24 hours"

Interest in dialogue

Side events, open space for civil society at WHA

Better access

Information flow

Timely documentation

Throughout the whole cycle of decision shaping

Geneva+

Commissions
Departments
Hearings
Consultations

PBAC
Access
Thank you for your attention!

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