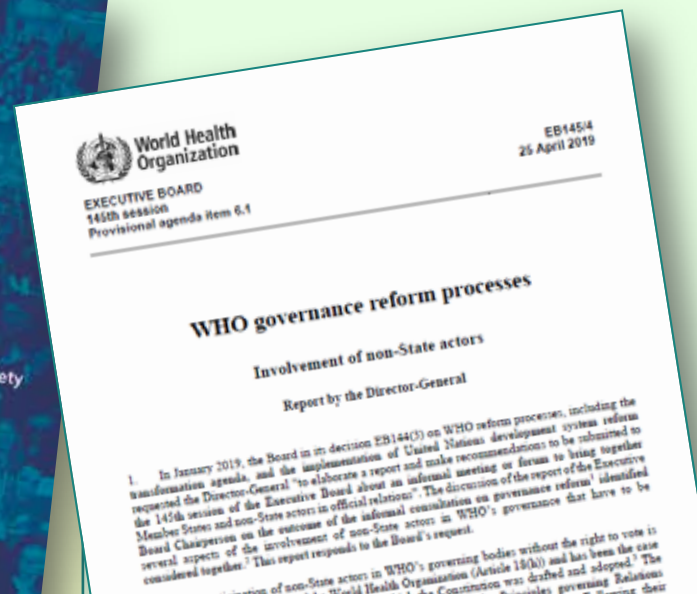
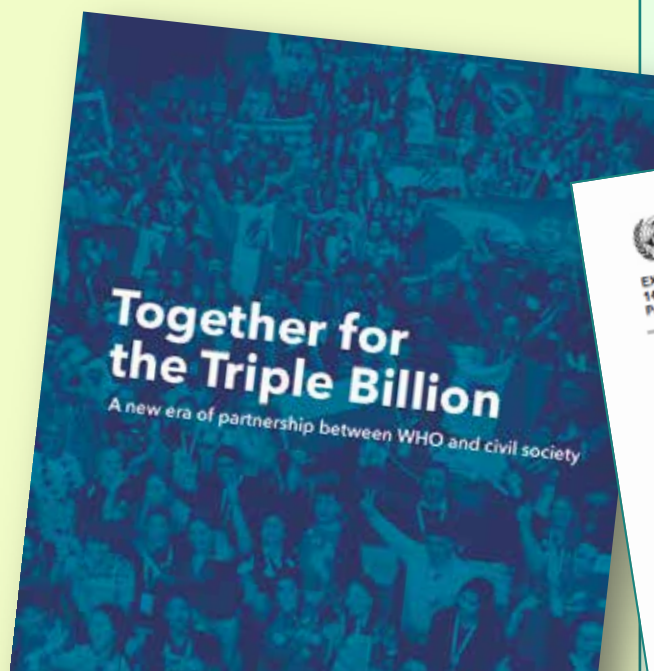


# Two interrelated cases

...seen from my personal and institutional perspective  
Thomas Schwarz, Medicus Mundi International Network

**Case 1: “Civil society” engagement with WHO leadership, in hosted partnerships and WHO processes**

**Case 2: Civil society participation at governing body meetings and interaction with Member States: Defending a shrinking space (?)**







## Case 1: “Civil society” engagement with WHO leadership, in hosted partnerships and WHO processes

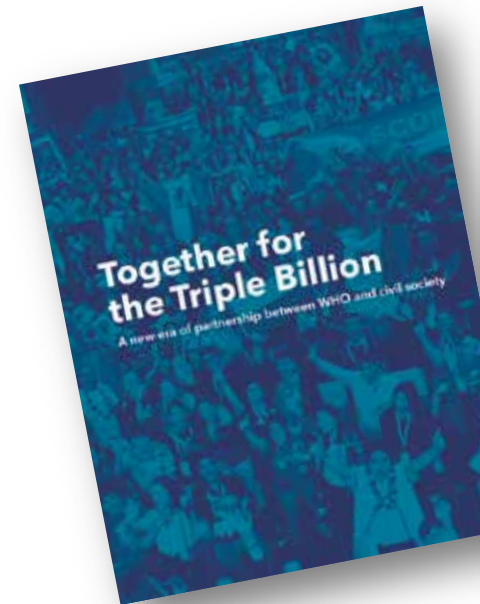
- **“WHO-Civil Society Task Team”**
- **Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) of the UHC2030 Partnership**
- WHO Civil Society Working Group on the third High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on NCDs
- Civil Society Task Force on TB



# WHO-Civil Society Task Team

“The Task Team was established in January 2018 at the invitation of WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, with the goal of building a set of bold, creative recommendations for enhancing collaboration between WHO and civil society organizations (CSOs) to help achieve the ‘Triple Billion’ goals outlined in WHO’s 13th General Programme of Work.”

<https://civilsociety4health.org/>



# Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030



“The Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030 (CSEM) is the civil society constituent of the International Health Partnership for UHC2030 (UHC2030). The CSEM raises civil society voices in UHC2030 to ensure that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) policies are inclusive and equitable, and that systematic attention is given to the most marginalized and vulnerable populations so that no one is left behind.”

<https://csemonline.net/>

# Governance issues

- **Actors, power, interests**  
Who is in the lead (formally and informally)  
Who pays the bills?
- **Legitimacy**  
Top-down: (how) is the group mandated by WHO? ToR?  
Bottom-up: Inclusiveness, representation, accountability
- **Deliberations and outputs**  
How does the group collect input for report/statements?  
Transparent process or “black box” / “black hole”?  
Challenge: need (?) to always react immediately, produce output  
Quality of products? What positions find their way into reports/statements?
- **Good governance and sound management**  
Structure, interaction, communication, transparency...  
“We build the ship while sailing”

# Engaging and contributing from within? Critically watching from outside?

## MMI Network and the WHO-CSO Task Team

- MMI Secretariat was informed about the task team’s making, but decided not to engage
- We critically commented on Task Team legitimacy and governance in conversation with its leadership and the WHO secretariat
- We participated in the launch of the report
- We consider the report useful, but have made it clear that the conversation on WHO-CSO relations must be continued and concretized on a different platform



# Engaging and contributing from within? Critically watching from outside

## **MMI Network and the CSEM**

- MMI participated in the shaping of CSEM (December 2016)
- We formally joined UHC2030 and the CSEM in 2017
- We are represented in CSEM Advisory Group through one of the Network members (Africa, Community based)
- We cooperate with CSEM and UHC2030: Joint Astana side event on “Health Cooperation beyond aid” – push the issue as a topic for UHC2030 (webinar, working group?)
- We critically comment on governance issues from within (listserv, memo, meeting with Advisory Group)



# What to do? Preliminary thoughts

## **Invited to set up or join a group?**

- Culture and practice of democracy, critical self-reflection; transparency on tasks and terms, open process
- Pay attention on key elements of good governance and good management from the very beginning
- Be absolutely clear about how to deal with diversity, diverging interests, inclusiveness and representation

## **Role of us / MMI / G2H2 “governance” working group?**

- Critically watch and comment from within or from outside
- Develop and promote standards and good practices

## **...and herewith over to you: Case 1: “Civil society” engagement with WHO leadership, in hosted partnerships and WHO processes**

- Is there a shared assessment of the case presented and discussed? (What’s the story? What’s the problem?)
- Are there agreed civil society positions, proposals, and demands?
- Is there a common ground for a civil society statement on this topic?
- What action is needed at the World Health Assembly?
- Who will continue to work on the issue?

