

# WHO: Democratic governance - at global and national level

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DGH briefing in Geneva, 7 May 2013  
WHO Reform and Global Health Governance

# WHO governance - at global level



WHO as sole  
global legal  
health authority

WHO as an  
intergovernmental  
organization

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) ?

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But who are these  
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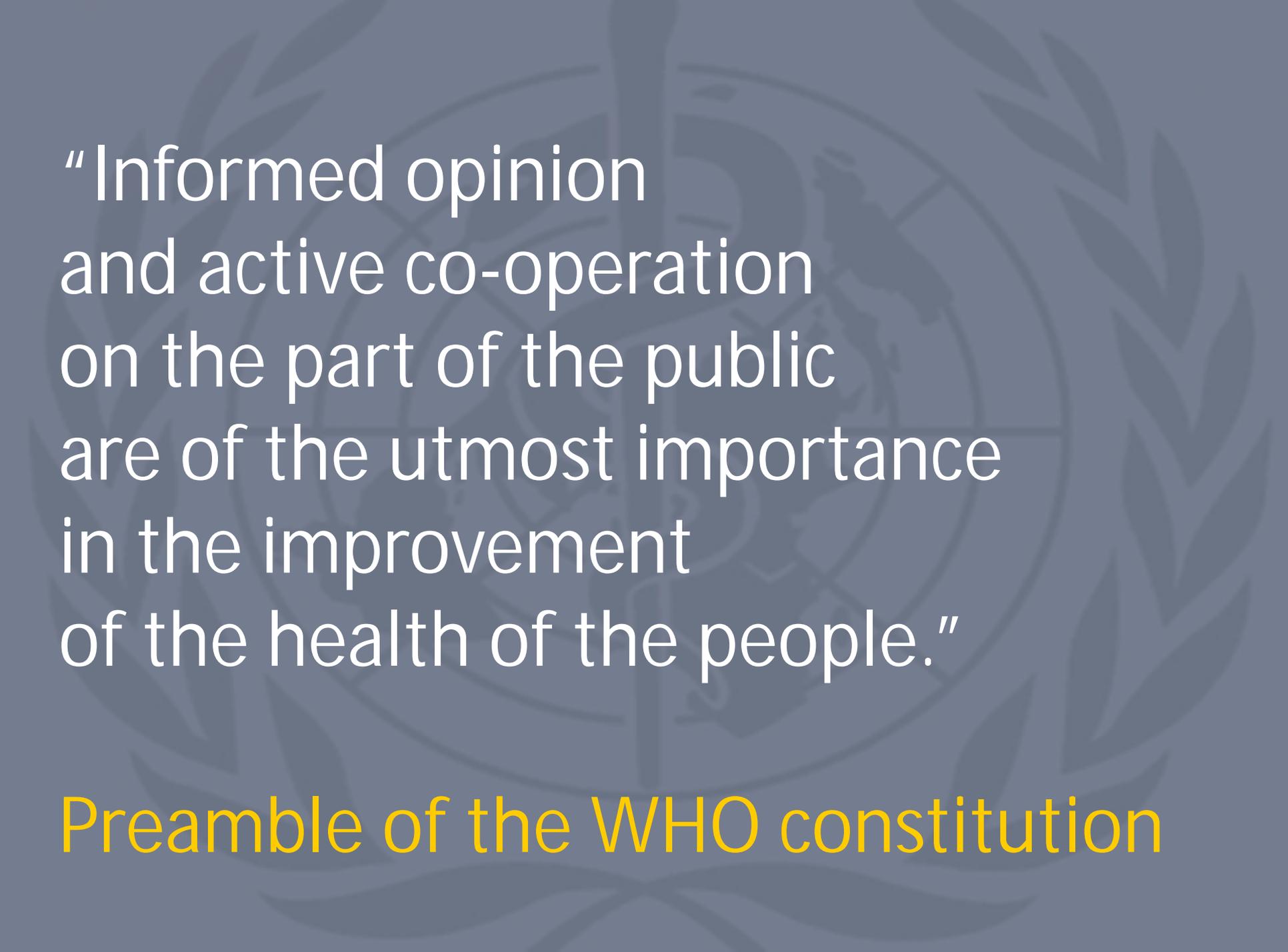
And what mechanisms exist to  
control that the country  
And what Coherence  
Democracy  
For whom do they speak?

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What positions on agenda

items do they bring along?  
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country's position in other for a?  
...start at home

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular watermark of the World Health Organization (WHO) logo. The logo consists of a central emblem surrounded by a laurel wreath. The emblem depicts a caduceus (a staff with two snakes) and a bowl of Hygieia (a bowl with a snake coiled around it). The text of the quote is overlaid on this background.

“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

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

...pay attention to them!

...share best practices!

...learn from your peers!

Many roads lead to Rome,  
but you can only get there  
if you start walking.

...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 +

PBAC  
Access

"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



Thank you for your attention!

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