Global Health Diplomacy

An introduction

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Bad Hofgastein, 2 October 2017
Changing policy imperatives

Fig 7: Policy imperatives and megatrends for governing the global health domain
Fig 1: Four key components in the definition of global health

Source: Kickbusch I, Cassels A et al (2017)
#1

Health is a political choice
“The WHO only contacts ministries of health, but it should also work with other ministries, like the ministry of finance, the ministry of foreign affairs—even heads of state and government.

The WHO should play its technical leadership role but at the same time its political leadership role. If you say, “health for all”, it’s political. And unless you take it to the highest level possible, it cannot happen.”

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, DG WHO in: Foreign Affairs, Sept/Oct 2017
Decision EUR/RC65(1)
Promoting intersectoral action for health and well-being in the WHO European Region: health is a political choice

Document EUR/RC65/16
The involvement of foreign policy
Foreign policy = strategy or approach chosen by the national government to achieve its goals in relation with external entities. This includes decisions to do nothing.

*Smith et al. 2008*
The interface of health & FP

detrimental
integral
instrumental
goal
Multitude of actors & competing interests
Multi Stakeholder Engagement

MSF

The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

G7/G20

BONO

WEF

250 PPPH

World Bank
Diversity of multilateralism

Governments ...

- operate in many venues simultaneously
- participate in a wide array of issue specific networks and partnerships, ad hoc coalitions, public private arrangements
- support incremental change

G-X world

- diffusion of power
- the rise of the rest
The interface of governance domains
The governance and diplomacy interface

- **Global Health Governance**
  Governance of the dedicated health organisations and their interface

- **Governance for Global Health**
  Governance at national and regional level in support of global health agendas

- **Global Governance for Health:**
  Health in the context of global organisations in other sectors

- **Network and Negotiation hubs**

*Kickbusch and Szabo 2014*
A unique actor: the WHO

Article 19 2(a)

to act as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work;

Article 19

The Health Assembly shall have authority to adopt conventions or agreements with respect to any matter within the competence of the organization. A two-thirds vote of the Health Assembly shall be required for the adoption of such conventions or agreements, which shall come into force for each Member when accepted by it in accordance with its constitutional processes.
## WHO’s Policy Instruments

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>“light” (&quot;soft&quot;)</th>
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<th>“heavy” (&quot;hard&quot;)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advisory</strong></td>
<td>Technical Advisory Groups</td>
<td>Expert Advisory Panels Expert Committees Study and Scientific Groups</td>
<td>Commissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Normative</strong></td>
<td>Resolutions</td>
<td>Codes</td>
<td>Regulations*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Collaborative</strong></td>
<td>Network or alliance</td>
<td>Independent governance, borrowed legal identity</td>
<td>Independent legal identity</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Operative</strong></td>
<td>WHO Secretariat Strategy</td>
<td>WHA noted or endorsed strategy</td>
<td>WHA negotiated strategy</td>
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Source: I. Smith, WHO

* Regulations and Conventions (treaty, protocol, etc.) are the only legally binding hard law instruments
Collective action and the changing nature of diplomacy
Multistakeholder & Network Diplomacy

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance: Innovative governance

Roll Back Malaria Partnership: > 500 partners
Global Health Diplomacy

Describes the practices by which governments and non-state actors attempt to coordinate and orchestrate global policy solutions to improve global health.

Ruckert et al 2016
Critical Elements

→ the **nature** of the subject matter

→ the **role of science** and scientists and evidence

→ the **complexity** of the negotiations

→ the **values base** – unique equity and human rights issues

→ **innovative** features and approaches

… in the pursuit of health equity, human rights and global public goods for health….
Global Health Diplomacy

Negotiating for health in the face of other interests

Improving relationships through health

Creating alliances for health outcomes

Negotiating governance

Contributing to peace and security
Negotiating for health...

Negotiating wicked problems
Negotiating political choices
Negotiating with many actors
Thank you!

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http://graduateinstitute.ch/globalhealth