

**WHO Civil Society
Commission
Onboarding
14 December 2023**



**World Health
Organization**

WHO engagement with CSOs – The journey

1950

3rd WHA introduced NGOs in official relations

2016

FENSA confirmed official relations system

2018

Ad Hoc Task Team on WHO-Civil Society Engagement report “Together for the Triple Billion”

2019

Transformation agenda – new approach to partnerships

2021-2022

CSO Engagement Initiative: preparedness and response to public health emergencies

1948

WHO constitution with multiple references to working with NGOs

2001

Civil Society initiative

2017

Involvement of NSAs in Governance included in Governance reform agenda

2018

WHA approval of GPW 13 made strengthening partnerships including with civil society a priority

2020

Introduction of DG – CSO Dialogues in the context of COVID-19

2022

WHO Youth Council

2023

WHO Civil Society Commission

Since 2020 COVID has strengthened many partner engagements

Stronger partnerships and meaningful engagement need all concerned actors



Governing bodies



WHO Secretariat



Member States



Non-State actors

Engagement with non-State actors



WHO governance - (NSA) involvements

NSAs in official relations
participation in WHO
governing bodies



Member States interaction with NSAs on national

National consultations with
NSAs

Youth/CSO delegates in
national WHA and EB
delegations



WHO Secretariat engagement with NSAs

WHO Civil Society
Commission

WHO Youth Council

Model WHO

WHO Briefing Centre

WHO Civil Society Commission

- WHO Secretariat led **network** of civil society organizations
- **Provides insight** and inputs to WHO DG and WHO Secretariat
- **Strengthens dialogue and collaboration**, and **provide recommendations** to support WHO on its engagement with civil society at all 3 levels to achieve health for all and the objectives of GPW as well as to accelerate attainment of the health-related SDGs
- **Inclusive and diverse** in participation and structure with representation from a cross-section of CSOs, different income settings and geographical areas, as well as global, regional, national, and local levels
- Adheres to WHO's rules, such as **FENSA**
- Annual General meeting, Steering Committee and Working Groups
- Dialogues between the WHO Director-General and Civil Society Organizations



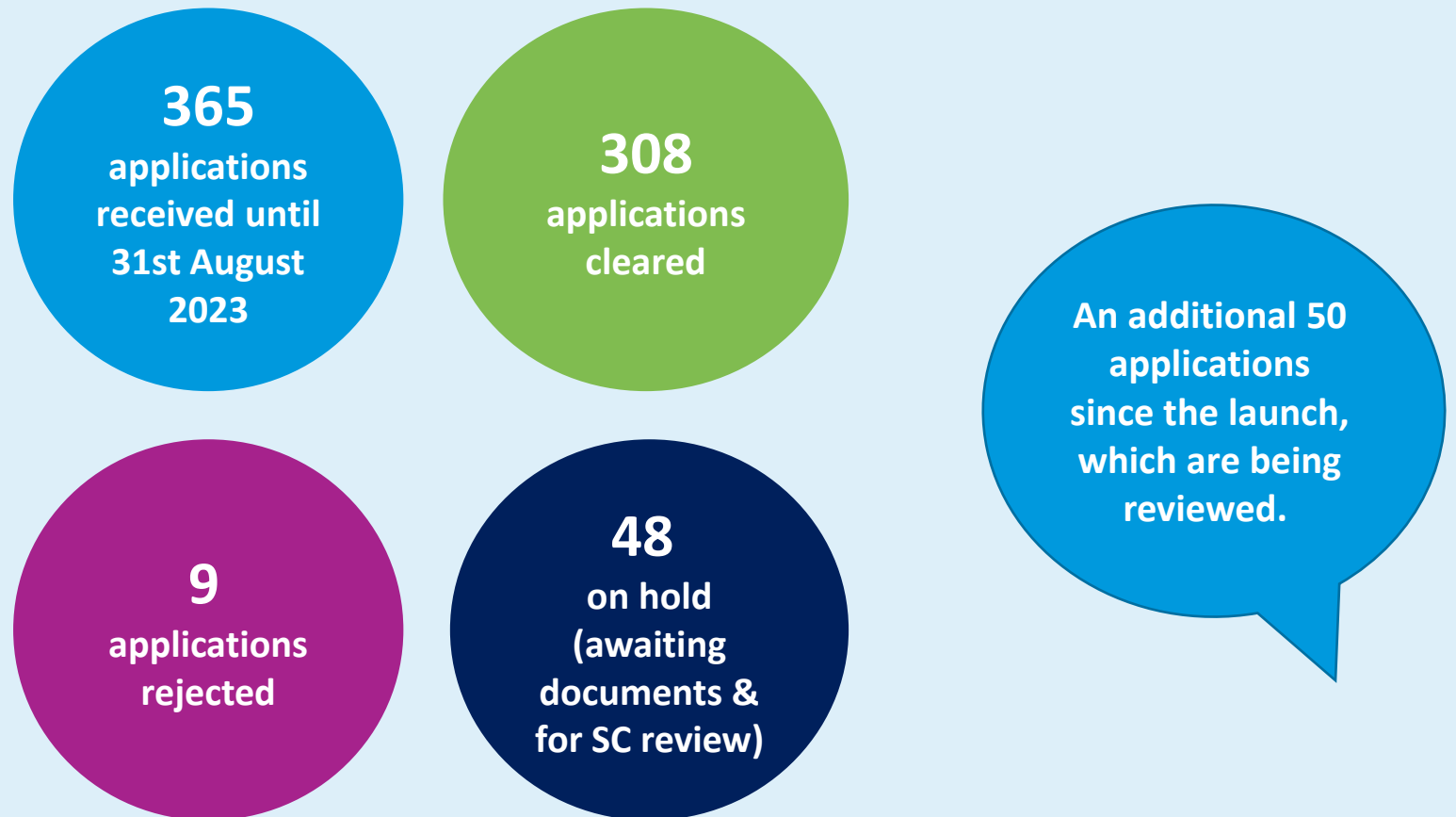
WHO Civil Society Commission Steering Committee

- Comprises of 22 representatives of CSOs that have been accepted to participate in the CSO Commission
- Chaired by WHO Secretariat, which appoints two Steering Committee members as Co-Chairs for a two-year term :
 - Lisa Hilmi, CORE Group
 - Ravi Ram, Medwise Solutions
- Provides recommendations, input and strategic direction to the aspects relating to the work of the Commission
- Recommendations will be made on the basis of consensus.

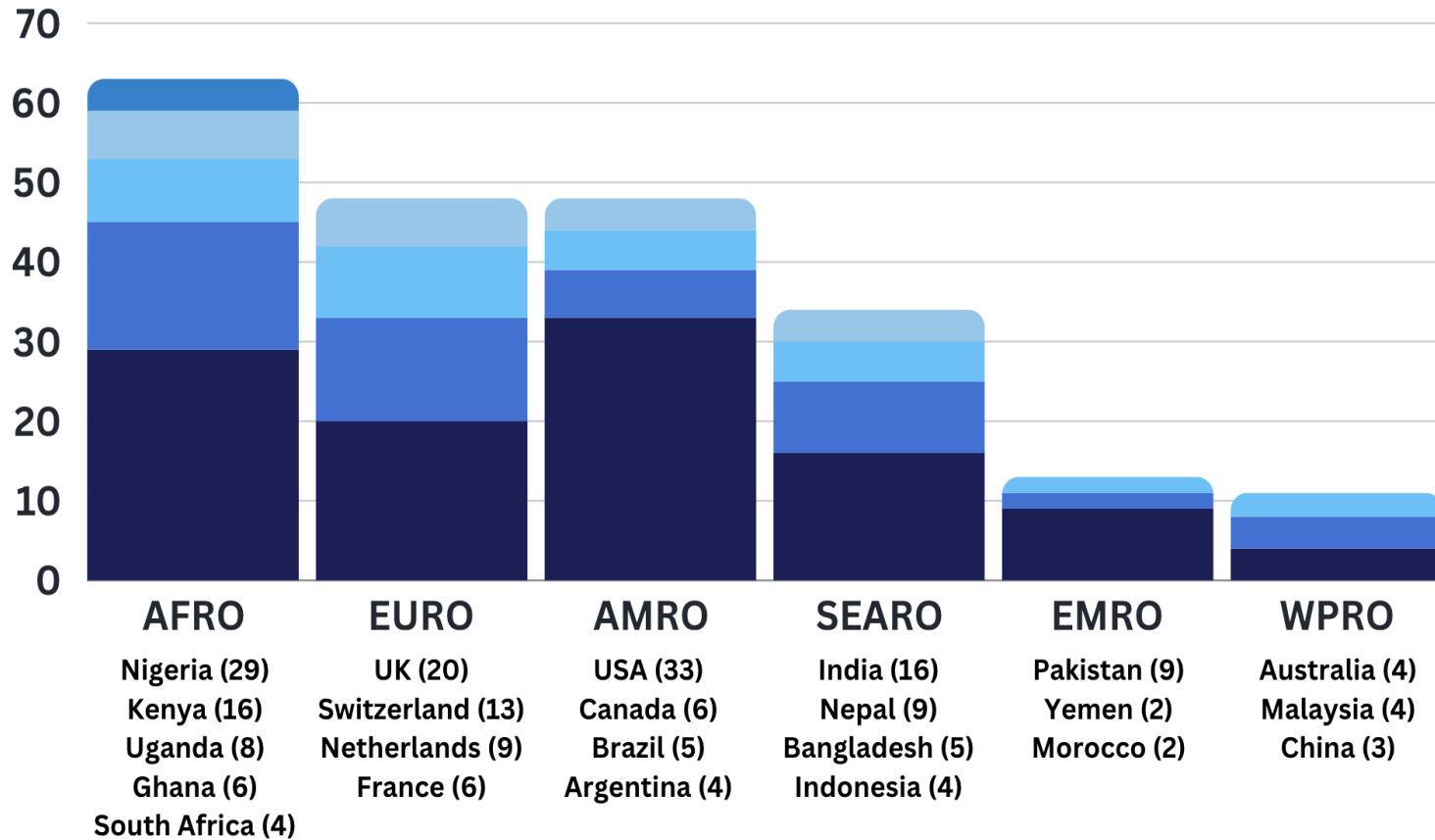
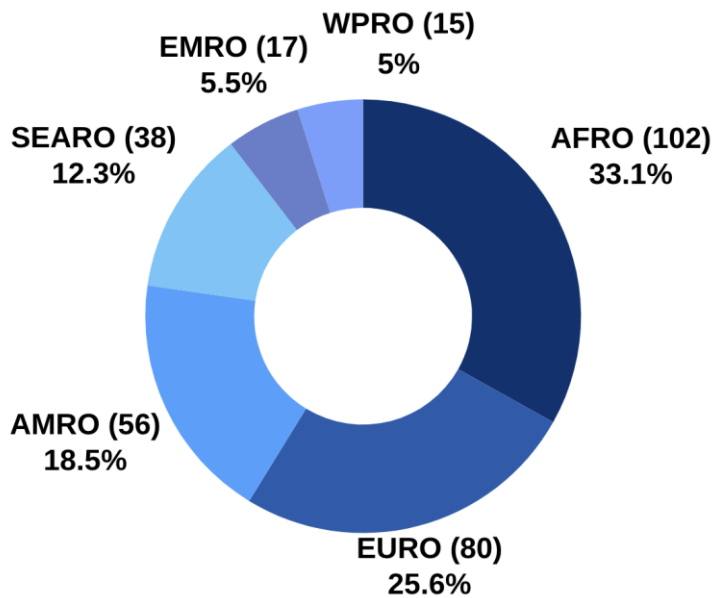


Current composition of Civil Society Commission and status of membership applications

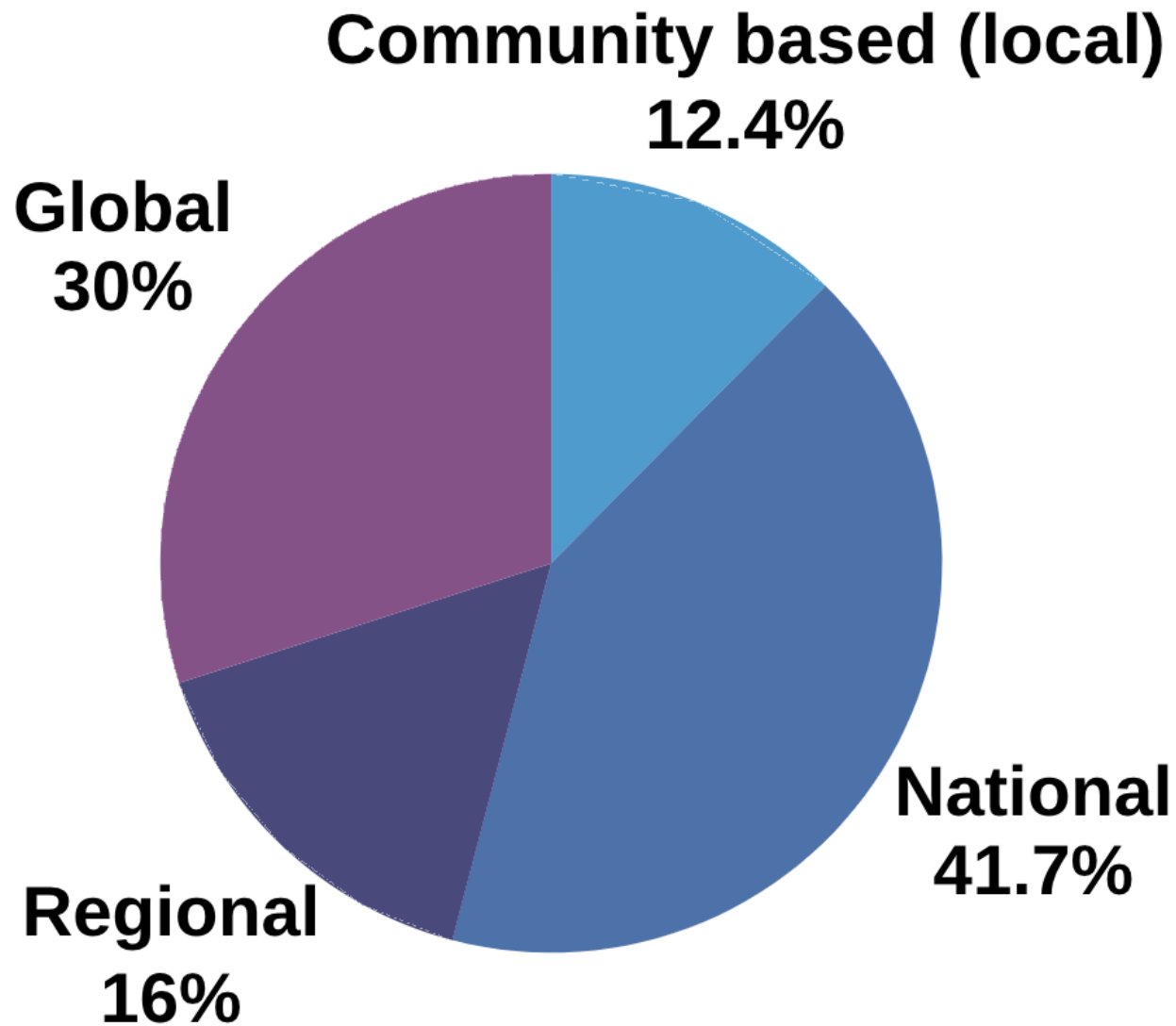
General overview



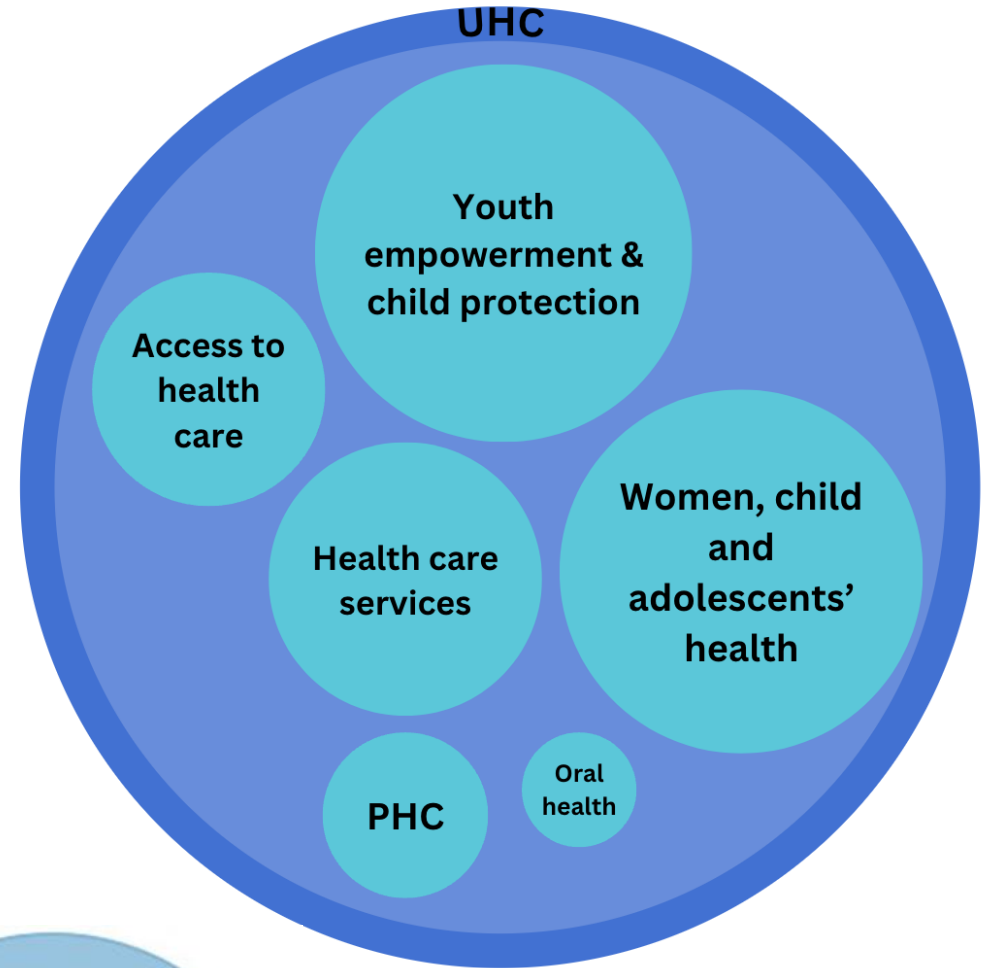
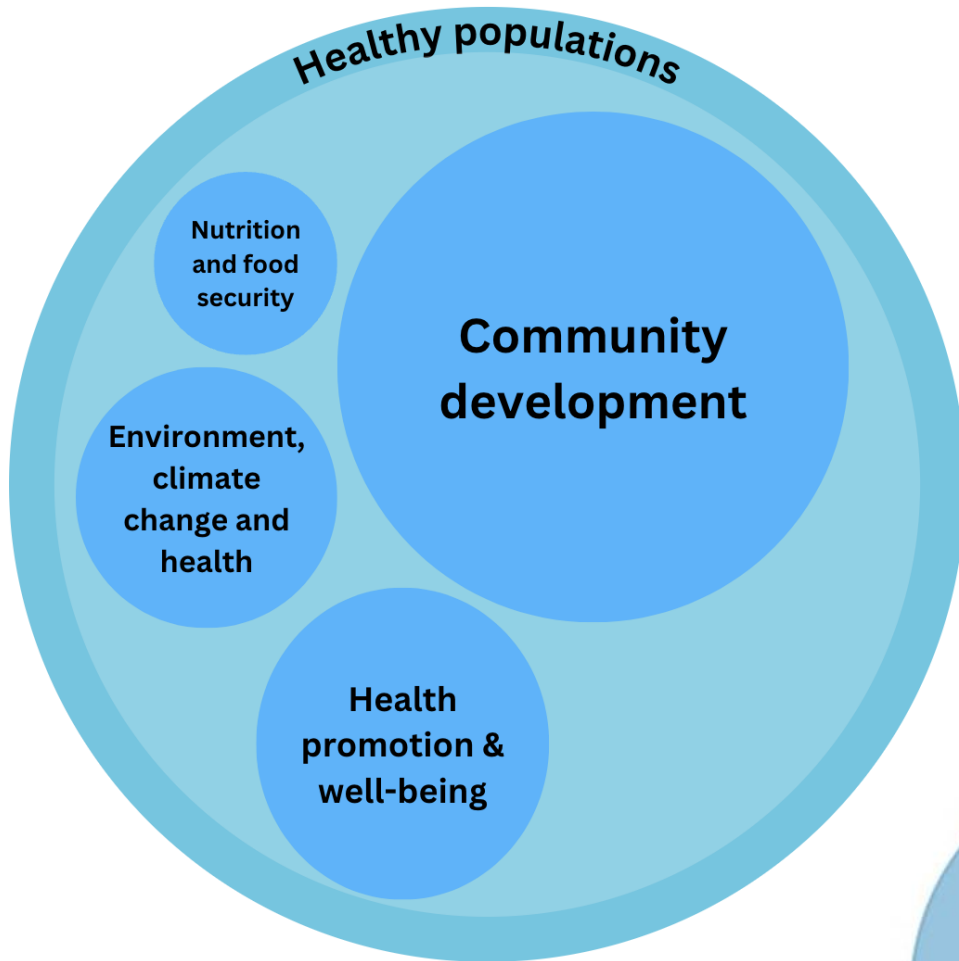
Breakdown by regional representation

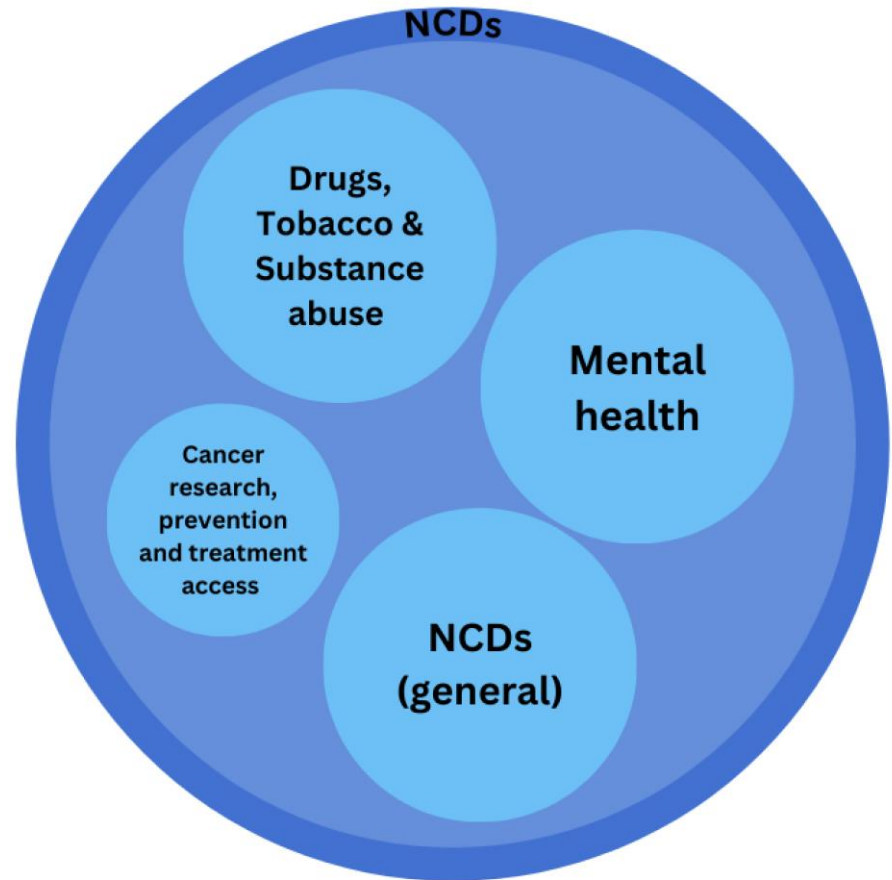
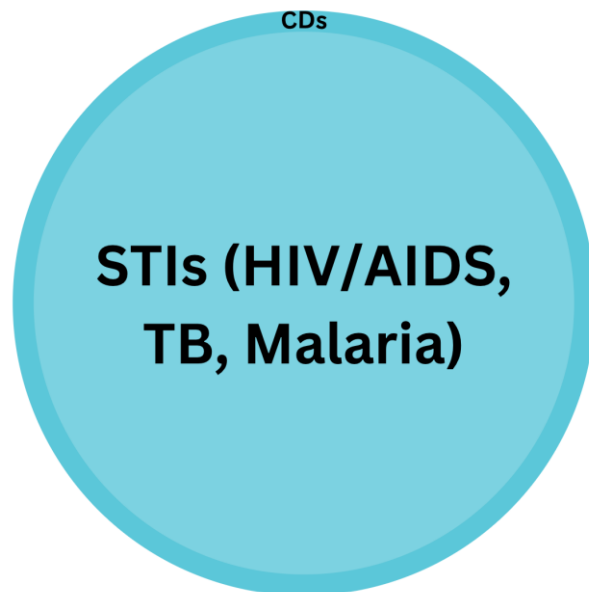
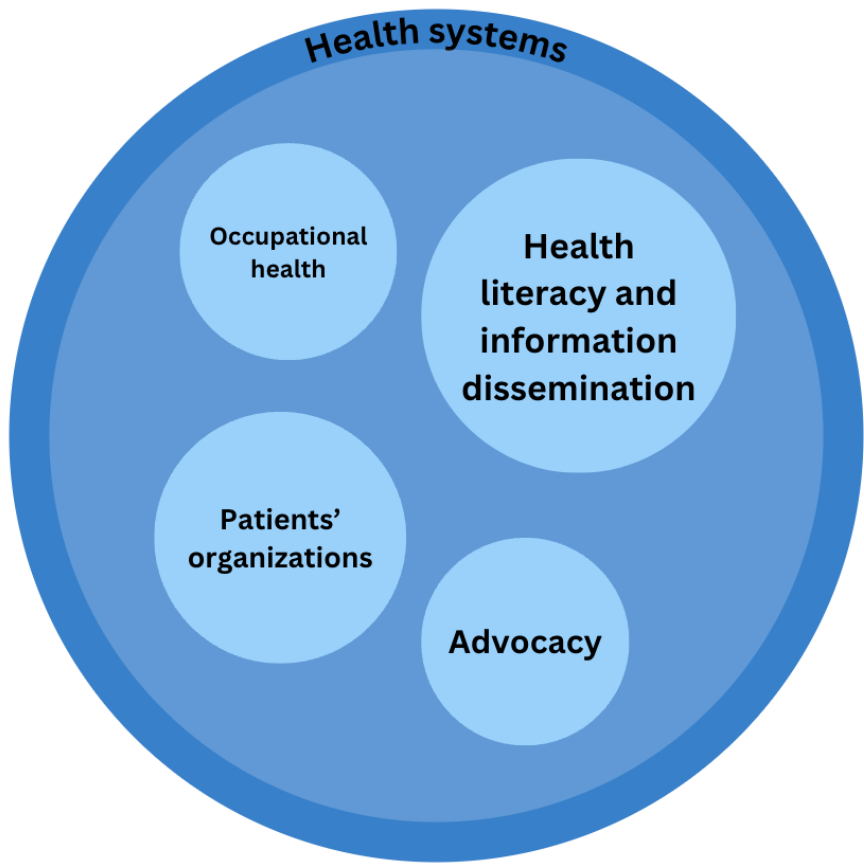


Breakdown by cope



Thematic areas





**General meeting
of the WHO Civil Society
Commission
to take place during
first quarter of 2024**

WHO Civil Society Commission

Updates on 6 priorities



	Priority	Status
●	Establishing systems and governance	Results framework, design for governance, work plan
●	CSO Commission member engagement	Commission general meeting on 14 Dec.
●	Contribute to a WHO CSO engagement strategy and implementation	<i>Not started</i>

	Priority	Status
●	Ensure CSO consultation on WHO activities	GPW-13 evaluation, GPW-14, Social participation resolution,
●	Collaboration with WHO at the global, regional, and country (de-mystification)	Discussions with WHO-CS focal points (HQ and regional offices)
●	Engage with the WHO Youth Council (and others)	Established working relationship, regular contact

Results Framework



Overall Goal: The goal of the Civil Society Commission is to support WHO's efforts towards improving engagement between WHO and civil society at global, regional, and national levels, rendering it more systematic with the aim of advancing WHO's work and public health outcomes.

Objective 1: Establish a fully operational, well governed and resourced Civil Society Commission

Key Results:

1. Governance document developed and approved
2. Annual workplan, budget and metrics developed and approved
3. Working Groups established

Objective 2: Provide advice and recommendations to WHO on how to better engage with civil society at the country, regional and global levels

Key Results:

1. Audit of CS engagement in WHO initiatives and processes (such as INB, GPW14) completed
2. Recommendations for further formalizing WHO CS engagement provided (in coordination with SPTN)
3. Priorities for the WHO CS Engagement Strategy provided

Objective 3: Bring civil society closer to WHO by demystifying WHO and providing CSOs with guidance on how to engage with WHO at the national, regional and global levels.

Key Results:

1. WHO orientation provided to CSOs
2. CSO priorities, concerns and perspectives continuously gathered
3. Guidance on how CS engages in WHO initiatives and with country/regional offices developed

Objective 4: Establish strategic relationships with WHO leadership, Directorates, governing bodies and Civil Society (including NSAs and other WHO CS groups).

Key Results:

1. CSO Commission membership expanded and remains diverse
2. Strategic partnerships with WHO offices, departments and other CS groups (Youth council and NSAs) identified
3. Collaboration and coordination with partners and WHO initiatives (UHC2030/CSEM, SPTN), established

Foundation:

1. CS Commission is financed
2. WHO Leadership creates an environment that enables CSO engagement at all levels
3. WHO establishes legitimacy of the CS Commission
4. All strategic partners are committed to the CS Commission Goals and Objectives
5. Technologies and platforms established (websites, knowledge exchange platforms, zoom etc.)

Core Principles:

1. To be inclusive and diverse in membership and structure, ensuring representation from civil society representing different interest groups and themes, geographical regions, and income settings;
2. To engage on basis of trust, inclusion and mutual capability promoting the jointly agreed objectives;
3. To ensure all activities align with WHO's norms and standards;
4. To align activities with international human rights and gender equality norms, standards and principles;
5. To be transparent and accountable in its processes and activities as well as on the implementation of agreed actions, commitments and instruments;
6. To advance WHO's priorities;
7. To create and share knowledge and commit to mutual learning;
8. To advance interactions between WHO and civil society organizations by increasing alignment and coordination across the landscape of civil society, particularly within regions and countries.



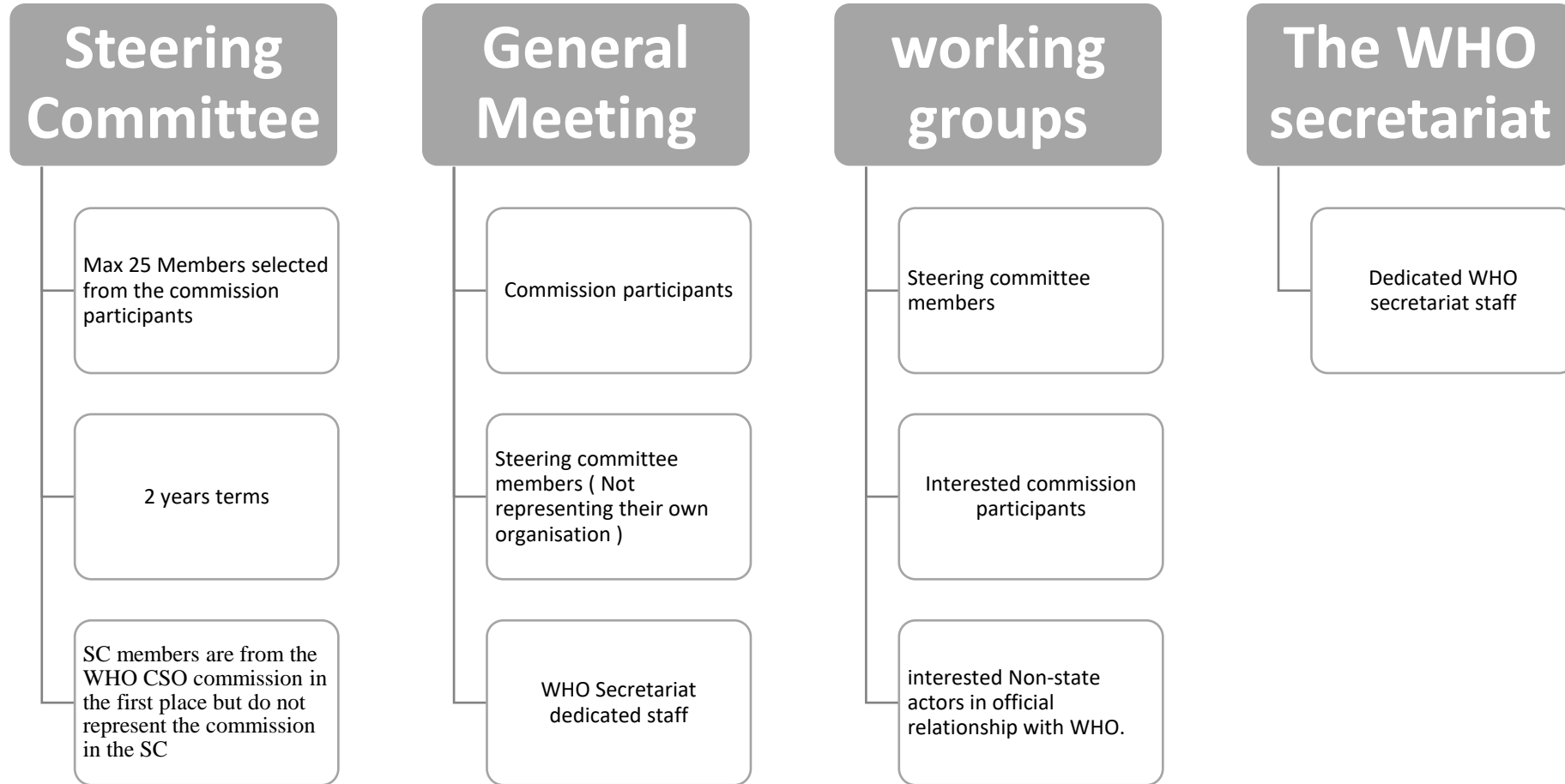
Terms of Reference of the Civil Society Commission and ongoing work on governance issues

Civil society commission General meeting

14 December 2023

Cedric Nininahazwe & Kjeld Hansen

Governance and structure overview



General Meeting

- ❑ The General Meeting is open to all Commission participants.
- ❑ Each participating organization nominate a maximum of 2 delegates
- ❑ The aim of the General Meeting is to :
 - Review the annual reports on the activities of the Commission, the Steering Committee and the working groups;
 - Review the Commission and Steering Committee proposed work plans;
 - Serve as a platform for knowledge sharing and networking amongst participants;
 - Discuss issues put forward by the Steering Committee and the Secretariat
 - Put forward proposals for the consideration of the Steering Committee and the Secretariat.

Steering Committee

- Provides recommendations, input and strategic direction to the aspects relating to the work of the Commission
- Jointly coordinate with the Secretariat the General meeting;
- Support the development of an annual report on the Commission activities
- Advise the secretariat on applications to the Commission;
- Support the Secretariat in the coordination of the establishment of working groups,

working groups



Bring together Commission participants with similar interests, to share information and collectively work on specific activities



Thematic and/or geographical/regional focus with corresponding terms of reference and workplan outlining its objectives, key outputs, priorities and methods of working



Propose two Co-Chairs to the Secretariat which will decide on their appointment in consultation with the Steering Committee.

The Secretariat

- WHO serves as the Secretariat for the WHO Civil Society Commission in accordance with WHO's rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
- The Secretariat oversee the day-to-day management of the work of the WHO Civil Society Commission
- Coordinate the development, and management of the WHO Civil Society Commission, including its working groups;
- Serve as the formal Chair of the Steering Committee. The day-to-day management of the responsibilities of the chair can be delegated to the Civil Society Vice-Chairs;
- Monitor and evaluate activities and processes of the WHO Civil Society Commission, making amendments as necessary, in consultation with the Steering Committee, to optimize its overall functioning and impact;
- Coordinate correspondence with WHO Civil Society Commission participants,
- Inform on decisions, commitments and plans of the WHO Civil Society Commission to all of its participants 6 weeks after the General Meeting;
- Oversee and approve the establishment of working groups;
- Develop a WHO central platform serving as a repository for the Commission, relevant documents and resources;
- information about the Commission and its activities and progress available;
- Facilitate, as appropriate, the liaison between the Steering Committee and senior staff in WHO,

Commission governance pending issues

The decision-making process (e.g. quorum and voting mechanism)

Steering committee representation and engagement with external stakeholders

Steering Committee membership- revokation, suspension and terms

Commission members revokation and suspension

Working groups operational modalities (e.g participation

Engagement mechanisms between the commission and WHO governing bodies and other stakeholders?

Commission evaluation and Terms of reference revision

Next steps

A Governance task team has been established to work on these issues and is in process of developing a rule of procedures for Steering committee.

Working groups set up with clear mandate and guidelines

An engagement strategy is being developed to guide our engagement within and outside the commission

Eager to hear feedback, suggestion and expectations from commission participants