Global health has become more and more complex, political, intertwined with many interconnected areas of international law and politics, and is being increasingly discussed and managed outside the traditional public health community. These developments pose constant challenges to WHO as the sole universal health organization from various perspectives, notably, for the delineation of its legitimate place in a crowded global health landscape; to make sure that health protection and promotion are not unduly sacrificed to other interests; and to better define the role and priorities for the Secretariat.

From a legal and governance perspective, I would like to focus on three among many possible issues:

1) **Non-communicable diseases (NCDs).** NCDs have emerged as a major public health and policy issue that has escalated all the way to the UN General Assembly. WHO has worked on a set of target and indicators as well as on a monitoring. However, many of the risk factors of NCDs (tobacco, junk or processed food, carbonated drinks) depend on international rules that transcend traditional public health, e.g. the liberalization in international trade and investment. Many states find it challenging to regain regulatory space to protect public health.

2) **Sharing of human pathogens.** Timely and unconstrained multilateral sharing of viruses (e.g. influenza) is essential for the production of diagnostic material, vaccines and medicines. Still, there is no overarching international legal framework that requires or protects such sharing. On the other hand, international rules on access to biological resources, on patents, and on the conditions for sharing pathogens between research centers can potentially hamper the protection of public health from serious diseases.

3) **WHO’s role in global health governance.** Global health has become a crowded and competitive space and WHO is no longer the uncontested central authority. In order to ensure its continued relevance, WHO must define its role and comparative advantage and its engagement for interaction with other actors, both public and private. The current reform process is arguably not succeeding in that effort.