Overview

Leadership and governance are critical to achieving health and development goals and improving the performance of national health systems [1]. Key elements of governance include: effective oversight; the existence of strategic policy frameworks; coalition building; shared values of equity and social justice; responsiveness; transparent and inclusive processes; efficient and effective implementation of strategic objectives; and accountability [2-5].

National Public Health Associations (PHAs), which constitute the full members of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), provide unique, multidisciplinary, independent perspectives on public health issues, often advocating for healthy public health policy, health equity and social justice, and meeting global health targets [6]. However, many national PHAs, especially in low and middle-income countries, are small fledgling organisations that lack capacity and/or resources to influence national health policy debates or to advocate for improved population health.

The 2018-2022 Strategic Plan of the WFPHA reiterated the importance of building an effective, efficient responsive and sustainable Federation, including organisational capacity building and improved governance [7]. The 2019 General Assembly Round-Table, which will focus on Transformational Leadership and Governance, is one of the first steps in implementing the goals and intentions expressed in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan of the Federation.

Objectives

The objectives of the Round Table are to:

1. Provide a forum to:
   a. Present and share annual progress reports of national PHAs and working groups
   b. Share experiences of governance structures, capacity, processes and practices of national PHAs in different geographical contexts
   c. Reflect on our own leadership journeys and practices, and how these may facilitate or constrain PHA governance

2. Identify governance factors facilitating and/or constraining the ability of national PHAs to influence public health policy and practice
3. Discuss the implications of these factors for us as individual leaders, as well as for our organisational cultures and structures

4. Develop practical strategies to enhance individual leadership and PHA governance

**Target audience**
National Public Health Associations and their executives and/or members

**Structure of round table**
Interactive, small group discussion, with limited inputs. PHAs and WGs reports will be embedded in the engagement and discussions. A detailed programme and resource material will be shared closer to the event.

**References**


