

## **The Promise of Accra Reset: Setting a Bold Direction for Reform**

*Reflection 29 June 2026*

July may prove pivotal for the trajectory of reforms of the international system for health, even in the absence of negotiations of political declarations or high-level forums.

Important developments are underway for the two major reform initiatives:

- The Accra Reset High-Level Panel will convene in Senegal to draft its report and recommendations;
- At the same time, WHO Member States are expected to nominate representatives for the joint process on reforming the global health architecture.

While these milestones may attract relatively limited public attention, they will be consequential to the substance and legitimacy of the reform agenda in months ahead.

At the Partnership for International Politics and Diplomacy for Health, we have continuously analysed and reflected on global health reform trends and perspectives in an ongoing series of *Insights papers*.

### Why Accra Reset Stands Out

**Accra Reset has consistently stood out** for its potential to drive transformative change. **Led by countries of the Global Majority**, it confronts the fundamental issue that many dialogues avoid - the entrenched power imbalances that have shaped, and continue to shape, international cooperation for health.

The Accra Reset considers how sovereign governments can maximally leverage existing domestic capacities, affirming that the primary relationship in any health system should be the one between governments and their citizens, not governments and global institutions. This link between health, development and power is not only strategic, but also honest and realistic.

**The High-Level Panel's direct mandate from incumbent Heads of State gives it a degree of political clout that many previous reform efforts have lacked.** The ambition is not to generate another set of aspirational ideas or yet another report, but to catalyse political action.

However, the question now is if the Panel's efforts will truly become the antidote to the status quo. This will greatly depend on the substance of its recommendations and the way they are socialised.

### What to Look Out For

To distinguish itself from past approaches, the Panel could put forward recommendations that:

- Clearly articulate **national responsibilities based on full country ownership**;
- Advance a vision of health financing with **domestic resources** as the core source;
- Explicitly **affirm the need to transition away from direct international development assistance** in most settings;
- Set **firm expectations for international institutions**, and outline **structural reforms** required to meet those expectations;
- Constructively describe the **role of non-state actors in global health governance**; and
- Establish **credible, operational accountability mechanisms** from the outset.

Notably, the strength and impact of the Panel's recommendations will not depend solely on their content. It is crucial that the recommendations are the product of consultations with key actors, an iterative and agile way of working, and a deep understanding of today's international landscape for health.

Expectations are already forming across the international health community, and **many stakeholders will develop their view on the recommendations before they are published**. Communication should not be a secondary consideration, but a critical part of the work itself.