

PHARMACISTS AT THE FORE

THE ROLE OF PHARMACISTS AT INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANISATIONS (IHO) IN IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY MEDICINES



ARIADNA NEBOT GIRALT
PHARMACIST, MPH & PHD IN SOCIOLOGY
INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL MEDICINES IN ANTWERP
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ABOUT ME AND MY RESEARCH



- Public health pharmacist, MPH & PhD in sociology
- 15 years of experience in global health organisations, both in research and in practice, between LMICs and HICs
- Catalan and Spanish
- Pharmacist Advisor at Médecins du Monde France

About my research

- PhD in sociology, co-supervised by Université Paris Cité/CEPED and ITM, 2020-2026.
- The process of professionalisation of those pharmacists joining IHO: "global pharmacists"
- Explorative study based on qualitative data : literature review, individual interviews (n=35) and non participative observations (n=2)

VERY SHORT GLOSSARY

Definitions coming from my PhD research

- *International health organisations (IHO)*

An **umbrella term** used to refer to any international organisation responsible for procuring Global South countries with medical products (MP)

- *Global pharmacist*

Any pharmacist working directly or supporting as a consultant an **IHO**

Definitions coming from Science Technology and Society(STS)/ Sociology literature

- *Community of practitioners*

The concept highlights the **constitutive role of professional practices** in bringing individuals together and progressively organising a professional activity and its community

- *Regulatory science*

Science that differs from the academic science by producing data in a **short delay** and useful for the **decision-making**

THE STARTING POINT

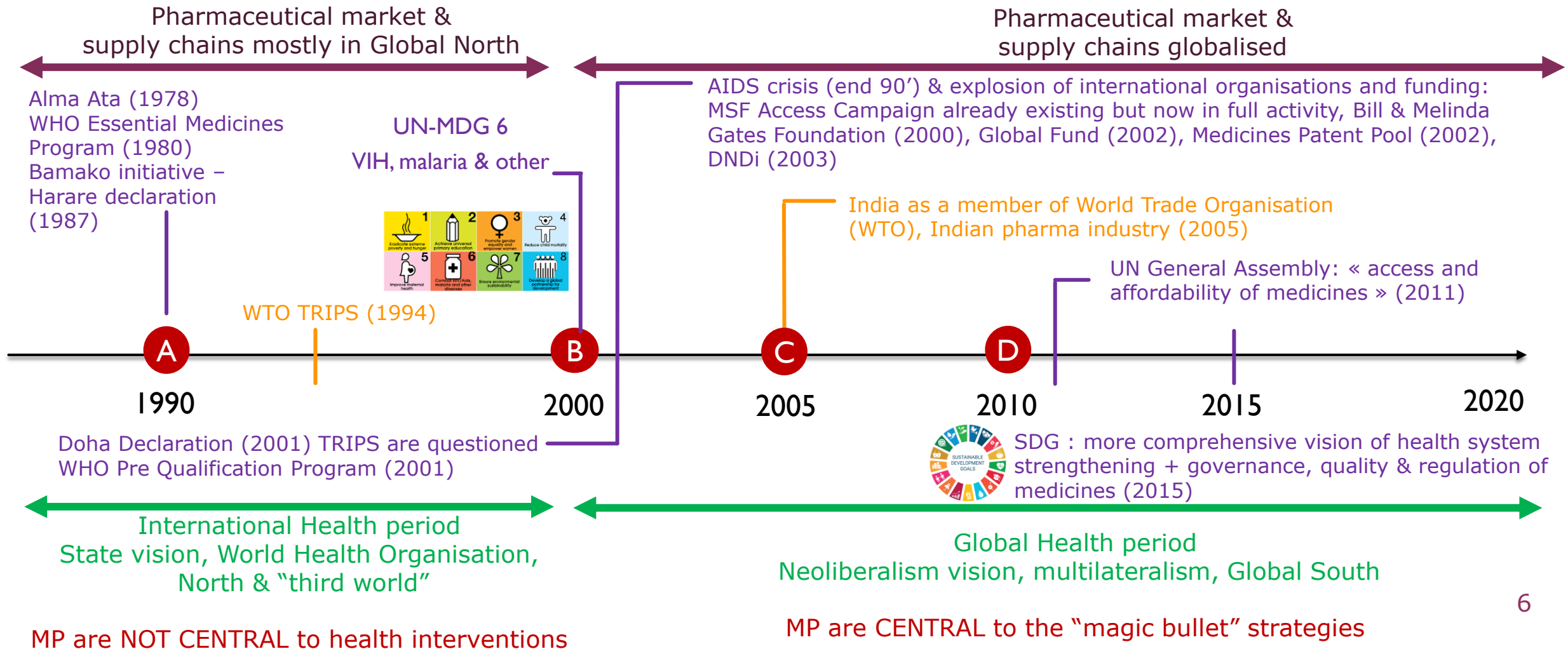
- **International health organisations (IHO)**, responsible for procuring pharmaceuticals for the countries in which they operate, have evolved within a **global context that has changed** significantly over the past 30 years
- This changing context has progressively placed **medical products and their management at the centre** of IHOs' activities. Yet, the role and value of **pharmaceutical expertise have been overlooked** for many years within these organisations

HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN THAT ?

THE ANALYSIS IN 3 MAIN POINTS

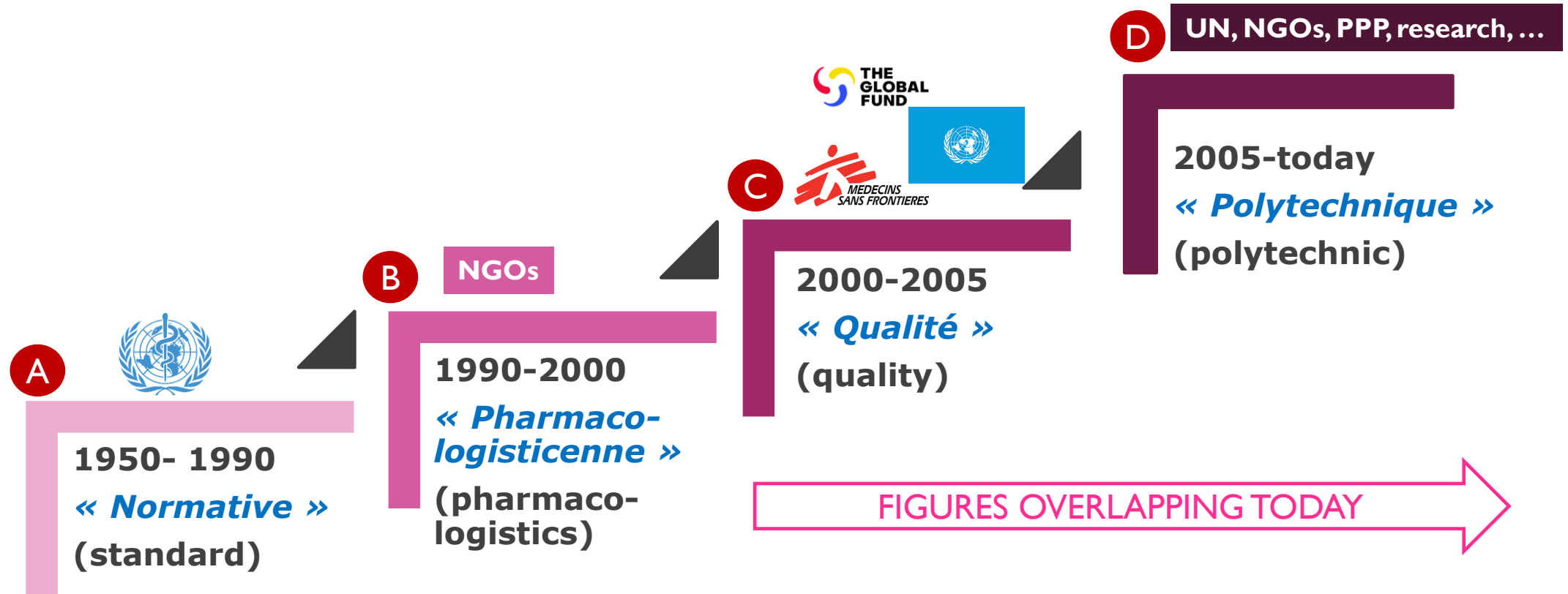
- 1. International Health Organisations (IHOs) in a context in transition**
- 2. Pharmaceutical practices and a multiplicity of global pharmacists figures**
- 3. Heterogeneity recruitment and fluctuating recognition of global pharmacists**

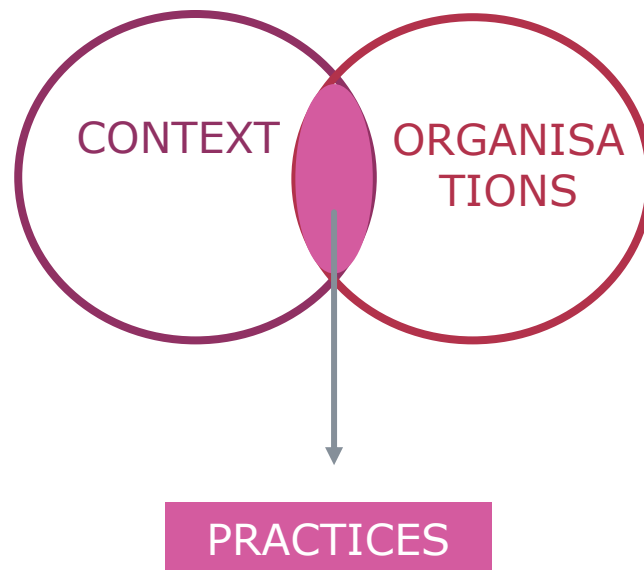
I. INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANISATIONS & A CONTEXT IN TRANSITION



2. PHARMACEUTICAL PRACTICES & A MULTIPLICITY OF GLOBAL PHARMACISTS FIGURES

→ Reasons to associate a **pharmaceutical judgement** to the IHO's **pharmaceutical strategy** across the time



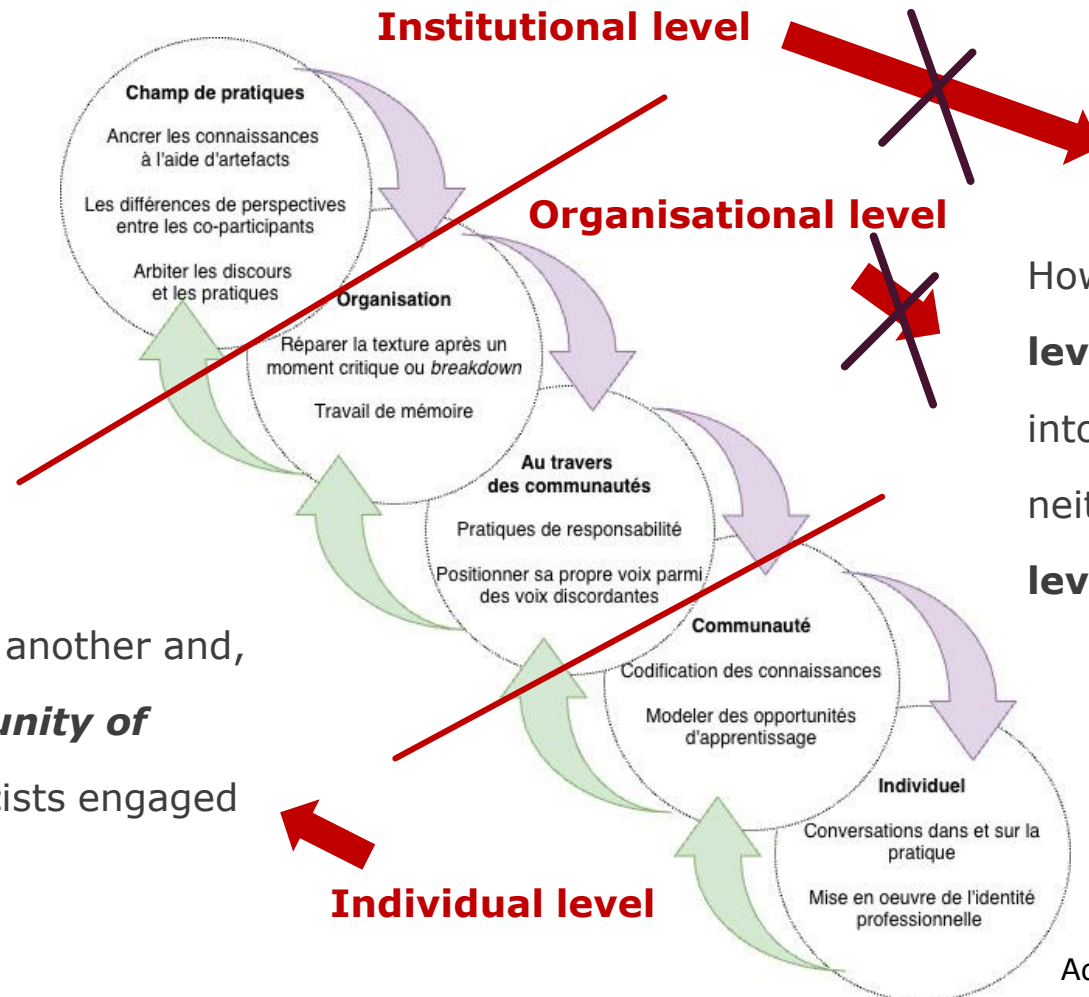


« The **codification of the global pharmacist practices** is a process that is inseparably linked to the **context** and the **organisations** that form part of it »

(page 190, extrait PhD Manuscript Nebot Giralt, Ariadna)

3. HETEROGENEITY RECRUITMENT & FLUCTUATING RECOGNITION

Very few IHO are consistent over the time on **recruiting** global pharmacists



However, this recognition at **individual level** it is **not necessary** translated into a recognition at **organisational** neither at **global health institutional level**

Global pharmacists recognised one another and, by doing so, they build a « **community of practitioners** » made by pharmacists engaged at **individual level**

CONCLUSIONS

- Today is much easier to find **specific positions for pharmacists** within international health organisations than 30 years ago. They are engaged at individual level and constitute a ***community of practitioners***. Their practices contribute to the **global health *reglementary science***
- Nevertheless, their recognition at organisational and institutional level **it is not homogenous**. The historical medical vision (international health period) and the neoliberal tendency (global health period) pushed for **putting the medical products at the centre leaving the pharmacist expertise and its professionalisation within IHO behind**

FINAL WORDS

- ***Pharmacists at the fore***, it is **NOT** about pharmacist corporativism or about defending one healthcare profession and its visibility more than others
- ***Pharmacists at the fore*** **it is ABOUT**
 - To advocate for a **stronger vision on pharmaceutical strategy** in the increasingly complex contexts in which international health organizations (IHOs) operate today
 - To promote **more stable and sustainable pharmaceutical expertise** within IHOs, not only through technical positions but also through **leadership and decision-making roles**
 - To **strengthen the risk management** associated with medical products within IHOs and to promote the broader adoption of the **Oxford Statement** (2018) : greater investment, policy change, and concrete action to eliminate SF medical products



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
&
COMMENTS