



World Health  
Organization

WHO Symposium on Health Financing for UHC  
A closer look at fiscal space and public finance issues in  
health  
Montreux, 15 November 2019

## **A few conclusions and reflections on future directions**

Joe Kutzin, Coordinator, Health Financing,  
WHO

It was a rich and interactive meeting...



# ...that included important life lessons

*‘Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm’*

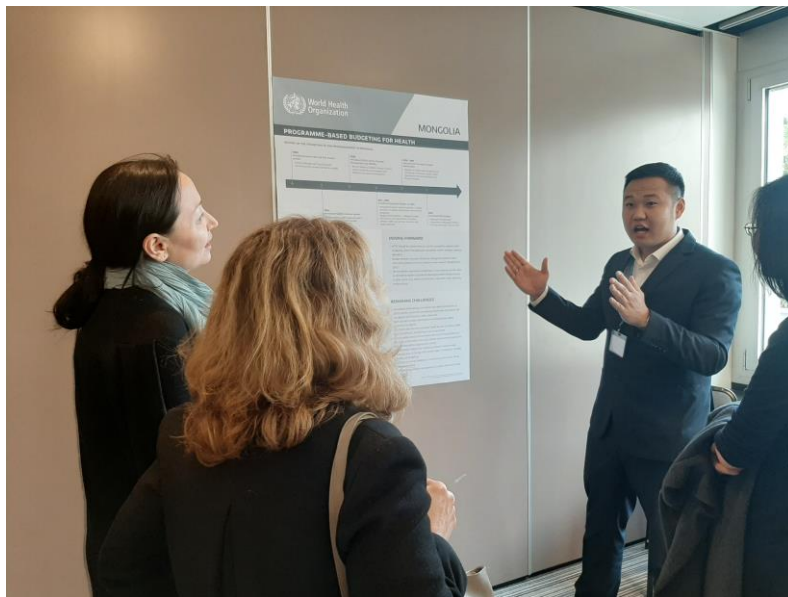
Winston Churchill



# DAY 1 – Key messages

- » Transition as an opportunity for country reform (health system and PFM)
- » Health sector can engage in dialog for greater budgetary space
- » PFM improvement is part of Fiscal Space for Health expansion
- » Differentiate dialog on decentralization from autonomy
- » Conditional transfers can be key instrument for alignment

# DAY 2 Poster session



## DAY 2 – key messages

- » Program budget structure can **enable** or **disable** environment for flexibility, alignment and accountability: devil is in the details
- » Links between budget structure and provider payment at the core of health financing reform implementation
- » Budget under-execution has multiple causes; shared agenda between health and finance



## Day 3 Role Play – great acting (and not at all how they are in their real jobs!)



## DAY 3 – Key messages

- » Embrace the *quid pro quo* – more flexibility with more/better accountability for performance
- » Need closer engagement / cross-walk between health finance and PFM – they can push each other
- » Make PFM funny, for example...



# Initial ideas...

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- » 2 PFM specialists walk into a bar. One of them says...
- » How many PFM specialists does it take to change a lightbulb?
- » A health economist, PFM specialist, and procurement expert are stranded on a desert island...
- » Need country and agency collaboration to develop these ideas further

# Final thoughts on moving forward TOGETHER

- » Collaborative approach to be maintained/strengthened: joint products, co-organized events, country dialogue
- » Strengthening ties of the “Community of Practice”
- » Harmonization in approaches/messages (fiscal space approach, PFM assessment)
- » Focusing on “how to” for country adaptation and implementation

Until the next time...

