Mission Impossible?
WHO's Third Decade (1968 - 77)
Efforts to Make Health an Integral Part of National Socio-Economic Development

Even before he took office as Director-General in 1973, Dr Halfdan Mahler had committed WHO to an integrated, holistic, country-based strategy that was strongly linked with UN reform efforts in countries.

Drawing on his current research and his personal knowledge of these events, Dr Litsios, a former WHO senior scientist, discusses how they contributed to the decentralization of WHO's decision-making responsibilities. He explains how, following the collapse of the UN reforms, WHO was then left poorly placed in the 1980s to compete with the global health initiatives of other organizations.

Dr Litsios is currently writing the history of WHO's third decade as part of the Global Health Histories initiative.

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