Reviewer's report

**Title:** An approach to addressing governance from a health system framework perspective

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 5 August 2011

**Reviewer:** Wolfgang Hein

**Reviewer's report:**

I very much appreciate the revision of your manuscript in particular in the "Background" and "Discussion" sections. In my opinion, however, the reference to the "health governance" discourse still remains too vague ("Stakeholders who have specific interests and different positions of power"). Who are these stakeholders? Which interests do they have? Just a reference to central issues would be useful, in particular the issue of coordination between a large number of health initiatives (as important providers of funds) and the effectiveness of governance in national health systems, and the issue of access to medicines (concerning prices as well as "neglected diseases"). I propose mentioning these issues in the Background section, and integrating them into the "Towards a new approach section...". Your figures 1 and 2 include the building blocks "medicines and technologies" as well as "financing", which for most developing countries cannot be dealt with without reference to the issues of access and health initiatives. I would also suggest that in a health systems perspective talking about health workers cannot be done without saying a word on the mobility of health workers (rural>urban; international brain-drain).

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.