

Open Briefing – Introduction to the 76th World Health Assembly

75 Years of Global Health Governance: WHO's Legacy and the Making of its Future

Sunday, May 21, 2023, 11:00-13:00 CEST

Virtually and in person at the Ivan Pictet Auditorium, Geneva Graduate Institute

BIOGRAPHIES

Welcome remarks

Kate Dodson

Vice President for Global Health Strategy, UN Foundation



Kate Dodson is the Vice President for Global Health at the United Nations Foundation. In this role, she works to ensure that the UN Foundation delivers on its commitments to address the health-related Sustainable Development Goals and builds synergies with UN agencies and other key multilateral partners. Kate joined the UN Foundation in 2004. Kate is Chair of the Board of Directors for the Global Health Council, Member of the Board of Directors for Women in Global Health, and Member of the Steering Committee for UHC2030. She has a master's degree with distinction from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a bachelor's degree with departmental honors from Bates College in Maine.

WHA76 Modalities & Priorities

Gian Luca Burci

Adjunct Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute



Gian Luca Burci is Adjunct Professor of international law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva since 2012. He is also the Director of the joint LLM on Global Health Law and Governance between the Graduate Institute and Georgetown Law School, as well as Academic Adviser in the Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute. Since 2016, Prof. Burci is Visiting Professor and Senior Scholar at the O'Neill Center on National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University School of Law. He previously worked in the Department of International Cooperation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (1998-1999). During his service in WHO, he was involved in the negotiation and implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the revision and implementation of the International Health Regulations, WHO's response to the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic and the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak as well as the institutional aspects of WHO reform. Prof. Burci holds a postgraduate degree in law from the University of Genova, Italy. His areas of expertise are public international law, the law and practice of international organizations as well as global health governance and law.

Panel Discussion: *WHO's Ever Evolving Role in Global Health Governance*

Speakers

David Heymann

Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), UK



David Heymann is a medical epidemiologist and Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at LSHTM. From 1989 to 2009 he held various leadership positions in infectious diseases at WHO, and in 2003 headed the WHO global response to SARS in his role as executive director of communicable diseases. In 1976, after spending two years working in India on smallpox eradication, he was a member of the CDC (Atlanta) team to investigate the first Ebola outbreak in DRC and stayed on in sub-Saharan Africa for 13 years in various field research positions on Ebola, monkeypox, Lassa Fever, malaria and other tropical diseases after which he was seconded by CDC to WHO. He has published over 275 peer reviewed articles and book chapters, is editor of the Control of Communicable

Diseases Manual, and is an elected member of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences and the US National Academy of Medicine. In 2009 he was named an Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to global health.

Suwit Wibulpolprasert

Senior Advisor, Ministry of Health, Thailand



Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert currently serves as Senior Advisor in global health for the Ministry of Health in Thailand. He is the former president of Steering Committee of Asia Partnership on Avian Influenza Research and on the Steering Committee of Asia-Pacific Action Alliance on HRH. He also is former Vice Chair of the WHO Executive Board, former Vice Chair of the Global Fund, and former Chair of the Program Coordinating Board of the UNAIDS. He is founder of the Prince Mahidol award conference on global health policies, and former chair of the Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Science. Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert has established a global health diplomacy capacity building program in Thailand and in other countries. He

has attended WHA 27 times.

Dr. Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija

Co-Chair, African Vaccine Delivery Alliance



Dr Ayoade Alakija currently serves as World Health Organization (WHO) Special Envoy for the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, Chair of the African Vaccine Delivery Alliance (AVDA) and Chair of FIND. Dr Alakija is a visionary leader, strategic thinker and vocal advocate for equity and justice with a global presence and ability to inspire and catalyse action at scale. As a medical doctor with over two decades experience working across Asia, the Americas, the Pacific region, Europe and Africa, she is expert in global health, development and humanitarian relief. She brings unique insights from working at every level of the health and development architecture- local, national, regional and global.

Driven by a deep commitment to achieve social justice and equity through humane approaches for transformational change at individual, community and systems level, she has been a leading voice calling for the urgent reimagining of how the globe should respond more consciously to the inequities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In her previous Minister-Counsellor role as Chief Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria, she led the integrated humanitarian response and

spearheaded the Oslo Humanitarian Conference for Nigeria and the Lake Chad region, working with governments and multilateral institutions to mobilize resources for some of the most under-recognized humanitarian crises in the world. Dr Alakija is also the founder of the Emergency Coordination Centre in Nigeria which promotes the rights of women and girls in education and health.

Kerstin Vesna Petrič

Chair of the WHO Executive Board and Head of the Office for Cooperation with WHO, Ministry of Health of Slovenia



Dr Kerstin Vesna Petrič, MD, MSc, has been a member of the WHO Executive Board since 2021. In May 2022, she was elected Chair of the Executive Board. Dr Petrič currently holds the position of Director-General of the Directorate of Public Health at the Ministry of Health of Slovenia. She assumed this position following a successful 16-year tenure as Head of the Division of Health Promotion and Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases at the Ministry of Health of Slovenia.

During her career, she has contributed to and led the implementation processes of different policies aimed at tackling alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use. Dr Petrič was awarded a certificate of appreciation by WHO in 2009 for her contribution to tobacco control. From 1998 to 2004, she served as Head of Office for WHO relations at the Ministry of Health of Slovenia and acted as a WHO liaison officer. She was also a member of the WHO Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe from 2016 to 2019. She is presently a board member of the European Health Forum Gastein and a Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

Moderator

Amy Maxmen

Journalist, Council on Foreign relations, USA



Amy Maxmen is a science journalist who writes for Nature, the New York Times, Wired, and National Geographic, among other outlets. For over a decade, she has reported on global health, infectious diseases, and biological research around the world. Dr Maxmen's work looks beyond "the science" to reveal historical, political, or economic drivers of outcomes. She won a 2021 Victor Cohn Prize for her writing on the toll of inequality during the COVID-19 pandemic in California. Her coverage of drug-resistant malaria in Myanmar and Cambodia was awarded a first-place prize from the Association of Health Care Journalists. Maxmen's story on the origin of humanity, reported in Ethiopia, is featured in the Best American Science and Nature Writing 2015. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California, Berkeley and a PhD in evolutionary biology from Harvard University.

University of California, Berkeley and a PhD in evolutionary biology from Harvard University.

Fireside Chat: *Health in conflict and crisis: a setback for the Triple Billion targets*

Speakers

Rana Hajjeh

Director, Programme Management, WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office



Dr Hajjeh is a senior public health leader with 30 years experience in global health, infectious diseases epidemiology, health policy and diplomacy, and health management, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Dr Hajjeh is currently holding the position of the Director of Programme Management (DPM) at the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office since April 2019. Between 2016 and 2019, she held the position of the Director of the Department of Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control. Prior to joining the WHO Regional Office in 2016, Dr Hajjeh worked at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 23 years, where she held many senior positions. She holds a Medical Doctor (M.D.) degree from the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon, and is

American board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, as well as trained in epidemiology at the CDC (EIS Class of 1993).

Esperanza Martinez

Senior Manager, Organizational Resilience, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



Dr. Esperanza Martinez is a humanitarian and global health leader with extensive experience in strategic planning, operational delivery, and complex crisis management. She led the global health portfolio of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for 5 years and most recently the response of the organization to the COVID-19 pandemic and to the international armed conflict in Ukraine.

Dr Martinez is a medical doctor and general surgeon, trained in Colombia, and specialized in International Public Health and Health Management in Australia.

Moderator

Stéphane Bussard

Director, Le Temps



Stephane Bussard is a senior journalist and editorialist at *Le Temps*. He is today responsible for the coverage of international Geneva. He has written extensively about the Covid-19 pandemic, global health issues and the WHO. He was *Le Temps* US correspondent in New York from 2011 to 2016. He graduated in international relations from the Graduate Institute in Geneva. He's also a translator.

Closing remarks

Suerie Moon

Co-Director, Global Health Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute



Suerie Moon is Professor of Practice, Department of International Relations & Political Science, and Co-Director of the Global Health Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute. She focuses on global governance and health, with specialized expertise in innovation and access to medicines, outbreak preparedness and response; trade, investment and intellectual property rules; and development assistance. She is the Principal Investigator on five research projects, and the recipient of a career grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation. Her current research examines new business models of pharmaceutical R&D, international sharing of outbreak-prone pathogens and related benefits, and the global governance of Covid-19.