

Speakers:

Chikwe Ihekweazu

Executive Director, Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization



Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu is Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, where he leads the Organization's global preparedness for and response to health emergencies, including disease outbreaks and humanitarian crises, across WHO's three levels.

He previously served as Acting WHO Regional Director for Africa and Assistant Director-General for the Division of Health Emergency Intelligence and Surveillance Systems, including the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in Berlin.

A trained infectious disease epidemiologist, Dr Ihekweazu has held leadership roles in public health agencies across Africa and Europe. Most notably, he served as the founding Director General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) from 2016 to 2021, where he played a central role in strengthening Nigeria's public health infrastructure. He also held leadership roles at the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases, the UK Health Protection Agency, and Germany's Robert Koch Institute.

Dr Ihekweazu holds a medical degree from the University of Nigeria and a Master of Public Health from Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany. He is a Fellow of the UK Faculty of Public Health and an alumnus of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training. He has authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications and received an Honorary Doctor of Science from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Budi Gunadi Sadikin

Minister of Health, Republic of Indonesia



Mr. Budi Gunadi Sadikin began his career in 1988 at IBM Asia-Pacific Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. He later held senior leadership positions at PT Bank Bali Tbk., ABN AMRO Bank Indonesia, PT Bank Danamon Tbk., and Adira Quantum Multi Finance before joining Bank Mandiri Tbk. in 2006. He served as President Director of Bank Mandiri from 2013 to 2016 and later became Chairman and CEO of PT Indonesia Asahan Aluminium (Persero), leading Indonesia's state-owned mining holding company.

He also served as Vice Minister I of State-Owned Enterprises, where he focused on strengthening governance, industrial transformation, and the strategic role of state-owned enterprises in supporting national economic development.

On December 23, 2020, Mr. Sadikin was appointed Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia. He led Indonesia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including one of the world's largest vaccination programs with more than 453 million doses administered nationwide. Under his leadership, Indonesia accelerated healthcare transformation through stronger primary care and referral services, expanded laboratory and genomic surveillance capacity, digital health integration, and strengthened domestic pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing.

Following his reappointment on October 21, 2024, he launched Indonesia's largest free health screening initiative targeting more than 70 million people and continued advancing preventive healthcare, health financing alignment, and long-term health system resilience.

At the global level, Mr. Sadikin currently serves as Board Member of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance representing the WPRO–SEARO constituency, Co-chair of the TB Vaccine Accelerator Council, Co-chair of the Accra Reset High-Level Advisory Panel, and Board Member of Stop TB Partnership.

Florika Fink-Hooijer

Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (DG HERA)



Before assuming her present role in 2025, Dr. Florika Fink-Hooijer was the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission.

Dr. Fink-Hooijer is recognized for her strong management and leadership skills and her in-depth experience in EU policy making & shaping.

A lawyer by training, she holds extensive expertise in foreign and security policy, humanitarian aid and disaster risk reduction, including civil-military cooperation as well as environmental policies. As a result, Dr. Fink-Hooijer has extensive experience in leading complex inter-institutional and intergovernmental negotiations.

In her previous role, she was responsible for implementing the European Green Deal objectives in particular the areas of Circular Economy, Biodiversity and Zero Pollution. In her current role, she is working to counter vulnerabilities and strategic dependencies within the EU in relation to threat analysis, development, production, procurement,

stockpiling and distribution of medical countermeasures, irrespective of the cause of the health emergency.

Viroj Tangcharoensathien

Secretary General, International Health Policy Program Foundation, Advisor for Global Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, and Vice-Chair, Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) of the WHO Pandemic Agreement



Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien is the Secretary General of the International Health Policy Program Foundation and advisor on Global Health to the Ministry of Public Health of the Kingdom of Thailand. He is also Vice-chair of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the WHO Pandemic Agreement. Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien received MD in 1980, served nine years in rural district hospitals in the northeast province of Thailand where he received the 'Best Rural Doctor' award in 1986 from the Thai Medical Association under the Royal Patronage. In 1990 he received a PhD in health planning and financing at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr Tangcharoensathien also received the Edwin Chadwick Medal from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in 2011 for his outstanding contribution to the generation of evidence on how to improve health systems in the interests of the poor. He has published more than 100 articles in international peer-reviewed journals.

In 1998, he co-founded the International Health Policy Program, a quasi-public agency affiliated with the Thai Ministry of Public Health for capacity building in health policy and systems research, generating evidence and influencing policy.

Matthias Seiche

Head of the Division Health Policy and Financing, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany



Mr Seiche joined BMZ in 2008 and has held several positions: he was an Advisor to the German Council Member with the Global Environment Facility, part of the German delegation to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and a Senior Policy Officer for bilateral cooperation with South Africa. From 2020 to 2025, he was also the Head of the Division for Data Management Policy at BMZ.

Before joining BMZ, he was the Team Leader on Climate Change and Senior Policy Officer for Economic Policy with Friends of the Earth Germany

(BUND). From 1996 to 1998 he worked as a Scientific Advisor for a Member of the German Federal Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag). He holds a Diplom as an Economist with studies at the Universities of Würzburg, Konstanz (Germany) and Windhoek (Namibia).

Maria D. Van Kerkhove

Director (a.i.), Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Management, Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organisation



Maria Van Kerkhove is a distinguished leader in global health, currently serving as the Director (a.i.) of the Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Management at the World Health Organization (WHO). She has played critical roles as COVID-19 Technical Lead, Emergency Manager, and Global Incident Manager during the 2024 mpox outbreak, declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

With over two decades of experience in infectious disease epidemiology, Dr. Van Kerkhove has led responses to COVID-19, Ebola, Zika, MERS, avian influenza, and mpox. A strategic thinker bridging research, policy, and practice, she is widely recognized for her leadership in strengthening global health systems and international collaboration. Her work continues to shape health policy and preparedness, ensuring a rigorous, coordinated response to emerging threats.

Her research focuses on zoonotic disease transmission at the human-animal interface, ensuring scientific discoveries inform policy and response efforts, particularly in high-risk settings.

Dr. Van Kerkhove holds a PhD in infectious disease epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She completed undergraduate studies at Cornell University and graduate work at Stanford University Medical School. Before joining WHO, she led the Outbreak Investigation Task Force at Institut Pasteur's Center for Global Health in Paris and held senior fellowships at Imperial College London's MRC Center for Outbreak Analysis and Modelling. Earlier, she worked as an epidemiologist in Cambodia at Institut Pasteur.

Jutta Reinhard-Rupp
Chief Scientific Officer, FIND – Diagnostics for All



Dr Jutta Reinhard-Rupp, FIND's Chief Scientific Officer, is an established leader in Global Health, with more than 25 years' experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry. Prior to joining FIND, Dr Reinhard-Rupp previously headed the Merck Global Health Institute, with a focus on neglected tropical diseases, among other health priorities. She also led the first public-private partnership in Global Health for Merck, the Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium, to develop a new pediatric treatment for young children to combat schistosomiasis. She is currently representing the H3D Foundation (Cape Town, South Africa) as an ambassador in Geneva and she serves as scientific advisor at Global Health-EDCTP3 and DZIF (German Network for Infectious Diseases Research).

Dr Reinhard-Rupp, a native of Germany, obtained a diploma in biology from the Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen and her PhD in molecular biology from the Max Planck Society.

Aurélia Nguyen
Deputy CEO, CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations



Aurélia Nguyen joined CEPI in October 2024 as Deputy CEO. In this role, she is in charge of shaping and delivering on CEPI's priorities across the organization.

Prior to joining CEPI, she spent 13 years at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance – latterly managing all of Gavi's programmatic work as Chief Programme Officer, with responsibility for design and execution of GAVI's vaccine programmes. During her tenure at Gavi, she served as Managing Director of the Office of the COVAX Facility, set up in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier in her career, she held various posts within GlaxoSmithKline, contributing to the development of GSK's policies on access to medicines and vaccines in Lower and Middle-Income Countries, and also within WHO, undertaking research on generic medicines policies.

She has served on a number of boards, including the Polio Oversight Board and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)'s Board of Trustees.

Janet Ginnard
Director for Strategy, Unitaid



Janet Ginnard has 20 years' international work experience in health, with broad professional experience in global health strategy, the pharmaceutical industry, pricing, market access and strategy consulting.

She is currently the Director of Strategy at Unitaid, a global health agency ensuring equitable access to lifesaving health tools for HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, women's health, children's health, and health emergencies. She leads the development of new areas for Unitaid investment, with an emphasis on market analysis and strategic partnerships. She also coordinated Unitaid's role co-leading ACT-A Therapeutics, part of the international response to COVID-19. She has a particular interest in optimizing access to appropriate drugs and diagnostics and applying private-sector business models to public health challenges.

She studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Michigan and Bioscience Enterprise at the University of Cambridge, Judge School of Business, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Tim Nguyen
Head of Unit for Medical Countermeasures, World Health Organisation



Tim Nguyen is the Head of Unit for Medical Countermeasures in the Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Management of the WHO Health Emergencies Preparedness and Response Programme (WHE). The medical countermeasure (MCM) landscape is highly complex, requiring strong coordination among multiple partners to ensure the world is ready to face future health emergencies in a fair and effective way. The unit work focuses on making sure that communities can protect themselves during crises by securing timely, sufficient, and equitable access to essential tools—such as diagnostics, treatments, vaccines, medical supplies, and other critical health products—at prices that are both affordable and sustainable.

Tim joined WHO in 2006 working as a Technical Officer in the Yellow Fever Programme which coordinated an initiative funded by the GAVI Alliance to provide 40 million doses of vaccine to most at-risk populations. In 2008, he joined WHO's Global Influenza Programme and took part in the global response work to the first influenza pandemic of the 21st century. From 2014-2017, he was the Unit leader for Knowledge Management, Evidence and Research for Policy-Making at the WHO Regional Office for Europe based in Copenhagen, Denmark. There, he established the scientific journal Public

Health Panorama and developed the WHO/Europe resolution and action plan for evidence-informed policy-making. Since 2017 he has led various governance mechanisms for access and allocation of MCMs in health emergencies.

Moderators:

Professor Suerie Moon

Co-Director, Global Health Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute



Professor Moon's work sits at the intersection of global governance and public health. Her theoretical contributions to the field include conceptualizing the global health system, defining the functions the system must perform to adequately protect public health, global public goods for health, and identifying the types of governance gaps and power disparities that contribute to health inequity. She has developed specialized policy expertise on how to achieve more globally equitable innovation and access to medicines; strengthen the global governance of outbreak preparedness and response; make trade, investment and intellectual property rules more health-sensitive; and address perennial weaknesses in development assistance for health. Her current research projects focus on the international sharing of outbreak-prone pathogens and related benefits, and new business models of pharmaceutical R&D. She also directs the Knowledge Network on Innovation and Access to Medicines, a project that aims to maximize the contributions of research and analysis to strengthening the pharmaceutical innovation system, a topic she has researched for over twenty years.

Prior to joining the Graduate Institute in 2016, she was Lecturer on Global Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She was Study Director of the Harvard-LSHTM Independent Panel on the Global Response to Ebola, head of Harvard's research team on the Lancet Commission on Global Governance for Health, and co-directed the Project on Innovation and Access to Technologies for Sustainable Development at the Kennedy School of Government. She also co-founded and led the Forum on Global Governance for Health, a focal point at the university for research, debate and strategic convening on issues at the intersection of global governance and health. She has continued to teach and advise doctoral students as adjunct Lecturer at the Harvard Chan School.

Her work has been published in leading academic journals and covered in mainstream media. She is currently the Principal Investigator on three research projects, and the recipient of a PRIMA grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation. She received a BA in history from Yale, an MPA in international relations from Princeton, and PhD in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Daniela Morich

Head of Policy Engagement and of the Global Health Platform, Global Health Centre



Daniela Morich presently serves as the Head of Policy Engagement and Global Health Platform at the Global Health Centre of the Geneva Graduate Institute. She maintains active collaborations with diverse research institutes and non-profit organisations, particularly in the realms of environmental and climate change law. At the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Daniela is a writer for the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB).

Daniela, a French-qualified lawyer admitted to the Paris Bar, has worked on a wide range of legal and political affairs in multilateral institutions, non-profit organisations, and the U.S. Government. She started her career within the United Nations systems and held assignments at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in Burundi and the International Labor Organization (ILO), in Italy. She gained extensive experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy while holding positions at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan and the U.S. Mission to UNESCO in Paris, France. In the private sector, Daniela worked at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP in its Paris international arbitration group where she focused on public international law matters and inter-State and commercial arbitration cases. Most recently, she co-directed the executive education Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Environmental Governance at the Geneva Graduate Institute.

Daniela received her BA in law from the University of Trieste (Italy) and her MA in International Relations and LL.M in International Law from London Metropolitan University (UK). Daniela speaks English, French and Italian.