

## **COVID-19 expert Drosten on pandemic preparedness: research on livestock and intermediary hosts is important**

Day 2 of the World Health Summit: Vaccine equity and strategies for global health

*(Berlin, October 25, 2021)*

The second day of the World Health Summit focused on lessons learned from COVID-19, particularly vaccine equity, better strategies in global pandemic preparedness and response, the mental health implications of COVID-19, and recent findings on Long COVID.

The President of the European Council **Charles Michel** stressed that solidarity is the gold standard in overcoming this pandemic: "We must fulfill more quickly our commitment on vaccine donations."

**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), criticized that global governance is too fragmented: "We need a global governance system."

**Chikwe Ihekweazu**, who will head the new WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in Berlin, called for more powerful surveillance systems, but also said that better data alone will not lead to better policy decisions: „But we have a responsibility to offer decision makers the best data we can."

**Christian Drosten**, Head of the Institute of Virology at Charité warned: "Viral diversity studies are only the first step in pandemic preparedness research. The focus needs to be on livestock and intermediary hosts."

On the third day, Tuesday, Oct. 26, speakers include:

- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Heyo Kroemer, CEO, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Minister of State, Ministry of State, Senegal
- Sanna Marin, Prime Minister, Finland
- Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Inger Ashing, CEO, Save the Children International
- Jeremy Farrar, Director, Wellcome Trust
- Peter Sands, Executive Director, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Jane Halton, Chair of the Board, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
- Martín Guzmán, Minister of Economy, Argentina

All information on [speakers](#)

Central Topics of the World Health Summit 2021:

- Vaccine Equity: A Call to Action
- Pandemic Preparedness: Lessons from COVID-19
- The Intersection of COVID-19 and Mental Health
- The Role of the European Union in Global Health



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- WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All
- Unlocking Digital and AI Technologies for Health

More on [program](#)

The World Health Summit 2021 will once again bring together the brightest minds in the field of global health. 380 speakers and 6,000 participants from all over the world are expected online and on-site.

Digital participation in the World Health Summit is free and possible without prior registration. The Zoom links can be accessed directly in the respective sessions in the online program: [www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org).

All session recordings: [www.youtube.com/user/WorldHealthSummit1](https://www.youtube.com/user/WorldHealthSummit1)

On-site participation is limited and by invitation only due to COVID-19. Access to the venue requires proof of EU-approved vaccination, recovery or negative test, not older than 24 hours. On-site, hygiene and distancing rules apply.

The World Health Summit is one of the world's most important strategic forums for global health and brings together leaders from politics, science, civil society, and the private sector, aiming to set the course for a healthier future. It was founded in 2009 to mark the 300th anniversary of Charité and is held under the patronage of German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**, French President **Emmanuel Macron**, President of the European Commission **Ursula von der Leyen** and **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, WHO Director-General. President of the World Health Summit is Axel R. Pries, Dean of Charité. International President 2021 is Charles Ibingira, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Uganda.

**Press information:** [www.worldhealthsummit.org/media/presskit.html](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org/media/presskit.html)

Press accreditation for on-site participation has been closed.

For further inquiries, please contact [communications@worldhealthsummit.org](mailto:communications@worldhealthsummit.org)  
Digital participation is possible without accreditation. Video and audio material can be used upon request. Source: World Health Summit

## **World Health Summit**

October 24-26

Kosmos, Karl-Marx-Allee 131a, 10243 Berlin, Germany & Digital

[www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org)

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