German Federal Minister of Health Lauterbach: “Outbreaks are mandatory, pandemics are optional.”

Second day of the World Health Summit 2022: Pandemic preparedness, climate change and sustainable health systems

Berlin, October 17, 2022

The second day of the World Health Summit 2022 focused on topics like pandemic preparedness, climate change and health, sustainable and affordable health systems as well as global health architecture.

"Outbreaks are mandatory, pandemics are optional,” said German Federal Minister of Health Karl Lauterbach. „In avoiding that an outbreak becomes a pandemic, we need well educated people with the skills on the ground – that is what preparedness for pandemics means."

Mike Ryan, Executive Director for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme stated that “the first thing we have to do as global institutions is to leave our egos at the door and actually start focusing on the people we serve.”

Steffi Lemke, German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection called for environmental and health sectors to work together on sustainable health for the people and the planet: “The health crisis is closely connected to the planetary crisis. We must tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution threatening the wellbeing and survival of people around the world.”

“We need action on a global level now. We have been through enough,” underlined Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Co-Chair of the UN Advisory Board of ‘Our Common Agenda’ and Former President of Liberia, called for a “time to transform the global health architecture.”

On the third day of WHS 2022 speakers include (all times in CEST):

- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO) (9:00, 12:30, 14:00, 16:00)
- Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (12:30)
- Bettina Stark-Watzinger, Federal Minister of Education and Research, Germany (14:00)
- Katsunobu Katō, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan (16:00)
- Carla Vizzotti, Minister of Health, Argentina (16:00)
- Charles Michel, President, European Council (16:00)
- Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Minister of State to the President, Senegal (11:00)
- Axel R. Pries, World Health Summit President (16:00)
- Seth Berkley, CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (12:30)
- Jeremy Farrar, Director, Wellcome Trust (16:00)
- Marco Lambertini, Director-General, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) International (16:00)
- Inger Ashing, CEO, Save the Children International (9:00)
- Catherine Russell, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (12:30)

More on speakers and program

The entire program is also available online.
We would like to highlight two especially newsworthy events on the closing day, Tuesday, October 18:

Polio Pledging Event, 12:30: PM
Investing in a Polio-free Future for More Resilient Health Systems
More on the Polio Pledging Event

WHS 2022 Final Session, 04:00: PM
Moving into the Future: Making the Political Choice for Health
More on the Final Session

Press info and press photos are available in the Press Kit in the Media Center: https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/whs-2022/media-center.html

The World Health Summit 2022, which is being organized jointly with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the first time, is considered the world’s leading meeting on global health. It is held under the patronage of German Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, Senegal’s President Macky Sall, and WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. Aims of WHS 2022 are to strengthen exchange, stimulate innovative solutions to health challenges, foster global health as a key political issue and promote a global health conversation in the spirit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The entire World Health Summit is open to the press. Accreditation for on-site participation is closed. Digital participation is possible without accreditation. Zoom links are available in the online program and during WHS 2022 at www.worldhealthsummit.org. Video and audio material can be used upon request. Source: World Health Summit

Recordings of all 60 sessions: https://www.youtube.com/worldhealthsummit

For on-site participation, wearing an FFP2 mask is mandatory.

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