

WELCOME MESSAGES  
HIGH PATRONS OF THE WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT 2022



**Where science, politics, the private sector and civil society meet for inspiring talks, enhanced cooperations and new solutions.**

A new edition of the World Health Summit brings us together this year, under an innovative partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO). I am delighted to be a Patron alongside Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over as we are still battling the virus around the world. This global health crisis created a shockwave, as cases and deaths rose by the day, and as each new variant of concern tested our health systems and our determination; but it also generated a momentum for us to come together, unprecedented in the history of nations, united around one common goal: to end the pandemic while developing more equitable and sus-

tainable models – to ensure each and all are safe.

It is in that spirit that France, along with the European Commission, the WHO and many other partners, launched the “Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator” in April 2020, to support the development, production and equitable distribution through health systems of safe and effective COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines. By bringing together Governments, international organizations, private actors and civil society, ACT-A has largely delivered on its promise of equity and will continue to do so in 2023.

The European Union has played a leading role in this exceptional call for international solidarity: acting as one Team Europe, the European Commission and its Member States are a major contributor to ACT-A and its “vaccine pillar”, COVAX, and one of the main donors of COVID-19 vaccines, with a collective commitment of 700 million doses. At the European Union – African Union Summit last February, under the French Presidency of the European Union Council, Team Europe also committed to a range of initiatives aiming at strengthening local pro-

duction capacities; supporting the COVID-19 vaccination campaigns’ rollout; fostering collaboration and exchanges of best practices to strengthen pharmaceutical systems; and spreading the One Health cooperation.

Beyond the end of the current crisis, health issues must remain on top of the international political agenda and France will continue to play an active role and ensure that health does not take second place to the crises that are unfortunately accumulating: wars, food and energy crises, the growing monkeypox epidemic, and so on. We will be doing so first by updating our European strategy for global health, a decision adopted under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. This renewed strategy will contribute to the construction of the “European Union of Public Health”, to confirm the EU as a leading actor of global health and to promote our shared values of solidarity, equity and the right to health for all, in a meaningful and impactful way.

France is reflecting on its own future strategy for global health, and among our priorities for the global health agenda comes the need to sustain-

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ably strengthen health systems, and collective pandemic prevention, preparedness and response systems and capacities, at all levels – global, regional and national. France is determined to engage its partners in adopting a solid international treaty on pandemics. We have no choice but learn from the current crisis and be better equipped for the next pandemic. This is our responsibility as leaders. In order to do better, we must understand better and rely on scientific work. That is what the WHS is all about!

One of the major lessons from COVID-19 is the need to consider human, animal and environmental health as fundamentally interrelated. Climate change as well as the loss of biodiversity, both caused by human activity, are clearly affecting our ecosystems' balance and our health. With that One Health approach in mind, France along with Germany and the Quadripartite collaboration (WHO, OIE, FAO and UNEP) will continue to support the crucial work of the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP).

The science-based evidence and multidisciplinary One Health approach will provide us the guidance

needed to enhance our health systems' resilience against future shocks. Integration into regional partnerships and networks, and collaboration between them, added to investments into the strengthening of local production capacities and the training of sufficient and qualified human resources for health will be necessary and complementary steps to long-term strengthening of health systems. France is a long-standing advocate of this vision, motivating its strong support the WHO Academy, from its inception.

This year, as armed conflicts in Ukraine, in Syria, in Yemen, in Ethiopia and in many other parts of the world are raging, we must uphold health as a fundamental human right for all, even in contexts of armed violence and repression. France will continue to support access to health care and services, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls – now more than ever as they are under attack – and access to sufficient and nutritious food, including for refugees, internally displaced people and other vulnerable groups.

We must now make the right decisions. New, ambitious and sustain-

able perspectives are emerging under the aegis of the WHO and its Director-General, of the European Union and its Member States. Together, we must give our support to an improved and renewed, balanced and efficient multilateral system and architecture allowing a better management of pandemics and consequently a better protection of our populations. France will be there.

Together, let us rise to the global health challenges that are in front of us and implement the fundamental right to health for all.

I wish you all a successful Summit.



**Emmanuel Macron**  
President of the  
Republic of France