

World Health Summit 2023 – Opening Ceremony Video Speech
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Part 1:

Ministers, your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, without the immediate emergency of the pandemic, we face two clear risks: First, that our collective efforts fizzle out and that other considerations take over the global health agenda.

We, in the European Commission are committed to fight those risks with urgent and collective action with a global outlook.

Our partners are asking us to go back to basics to achieve Universal Health Coverage and to regain lost ground for the Sustainable Development Goals to deliver better health for all.

In true Team Europe spirit, working closely with our member states, the new EU global health strategy is already on the road to implementation. We are determined to walk the talk with immediate and concrete action on three interrelated priorities:

- Delivering better health and wellbeing for people across the life course
- Strengthening health systems and advance Universal Health Coverage
- and: preventing and combatting health threats, including pandemics, applying a one health approach.

Today, we can already share with you five take-aways of our early experience.

Part 2:

Ladies and gentlemen, we are at a crossroads, which necessitates continuous engagement in global health.

Engagement based on deep and shared responsibility.

Engagement that focusses on better health for citizens, not geopolitical goals.

Engagement based on concrete action and shared interest, not only our interests.

Engagement which is inclusive and gives equal voice to all - without exclusions and without distortions.

Engagement based on solidarity, on partnerships, on mutual respect - not charity. Engagement that generally mobilizes partners, international organizations, global health initiatives and stakeholders along their respective strengths.

Let us strengthen the WHO's normative and technical work as an indispensable leader in global health.

Let us use the UN framework to support that leadership.

Let us use this year's G7 and G20 as springboards to help shape the future of health financing.

Let us mobilize the full power of private investment and philanthropies at the service of core global health priorities.

Let us leverage the central role of industry in innovation.

Let us embrace the power of civil society organizations to deliver health results on the ground.

The World Health Summit is the ideal setting for this crucial discussion. With its unique combination of expertise and experience, perspective, and political drive.

Let me thank Minister Lauterbach and Germany, Minister Rousseau and France, Doctor Tedros as well Dr. Axel Pries for bringing everyone together here today at World Health Summit. An indispensable partnership which the commission is proud to support. Thank you.