

# WELCOME MESSAGES

HIGH PATRONS OF THE WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT 2023



I am delighted that so many international experts have come together again this year for this important Summit meeting in Berlin to inject fresh impetus into global health policy.

Pandemic preparedness, international coordination, streamlined processes, access to data, fair and equal access to vaccines and resilient health systems are all topics on which we need to cooperate even more closely. The World Health Summit provides a tremendous opportunity here.

It is important that we react more quickly to global health crises so that we can preempt risks together and identify potential dangers at an early stage. This is what we are going to focus on as we invest more in prevention and pandemic response.

We are thus working with our international partners on a pandemic

accord within the framework of the WHO. The accord should address both prevention and response in equal measure. Only if we consider humans, animals and the environment holistically will we be able to prevent pandemics and to equip ourselves to counter them.

To that end, we are strengthening research and development so that we can better understand transmission, reservoirs and vulnerabilities, and recognise dangers earlier.

Furthermore we want to strengthen healthcare systems in particular in low- or middle-income countries. We are thus supporting the establishment of more effective, self-financed systems. This opens the way for comprehensive treatment of disease but also for prevention, vaccines, and mother-child health.

During the pandemic, there was less of a focus on researching, diagnosing and treating tropical diseases. Other diseases, above all diseases affecting people living in poverty, were also neglected. The most recent WHO Global Tuberculosis Report confirms that TB was diagnosed less, that treatments were restricted and that infections actually increased during

the pandemic. This shows how important it is that we use findings and resources to prevent and combat all diseases. By way of example, mRNA technology can also accelerate our efforts to combat other diseases such as malaria or various cancers.

Forums such as the WHS remain indispensable for exchange on such matters. The Summit brings together a wide range of views and provides an environment for open discussions. You are thus laying the foundation for political decisions based on knowledge and good sense. When disinformation campaigns threaten to discredit research findings, help can be found by engaging in scientific dialogue and by pooling expertise. The WHS and you as its participants embody both these elements.

I hope you have a successful and fruitful time with stimulating discussions here at the WHS in Berlin!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Olaf Scholz', written in a cursive style.

**Olaf Scholz**

Chancellor of the  
Federal Republic of Germany