



**World Health Assembly 78 in Geneva – Side Event by the World Health Summit,
May 21, 2025**

Location: InterContinental Hotel
Ballroom A
Chemin Du Petit Saconnex 7-9 · 1209 Geneva

Time: 17:00 – 21:30

Taking Responsibility for Health in a Fragmenting World

Multilateralism in health has been in a period of transition since COVID-19. It is more difficult to reach consensus in a new multipolar world, defined by a new ecosystem of power centers. The need for a reset in global health needs to be faced head on. In this period of uncertainty, strong new global players stand ready to take on responsibility. Four consecutive Global South presidencies of the G20 have been headed by some of the most influential middle-income countries – determined to address global inequities and calling for more effective multilateral institutions. Regional organizations such as the European Union and the African Union play a much larger role, as do alliances such as the BRICS as well as strong new philanthropies. New issues such as planetary health and digital transformations raise new governance challenges, while pandemic challenges persist. What better place than the World Health Assembly to discuss these challenges with leaders that will shape global health future. The World Health Summit invites you to join us for a challenging conversation.

Agenda (as of 15.05.2025), content is subject to changes

| Session 1: Power Shifts and Global Health Leadership | |
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| 17:00-17:15 | <p>Opening remarks Welcome words from WHS presidents and German representative to the UN</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WHS President Prof. Dr. Axel R. Pries:• WHS International President Prof. Dr. Balvir Tomar:• H.E. Nikola Gillhoff, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva <p>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Ilona Kickbusch</p> |

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| 17:15-17:25 | <p>Lightning Talk: Shifting Power in Global Health</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Priya Basu, Executive Head, Pandemic Fund</p> <p>A short input reflecting on how global health decision-making is evolving, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increased influence of emerging economies and private sector actors • The implications of a more diversified governance structure • Key challenges in promoting inclusive and equitable approaches in global health policy |
| 17:25-18:00 | <p>Panel Discussion – “Equity and Solidarity: Perspectives from G20 and BRICS”</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precious Matsoso, Co-Chair WHO Intergovernmental Negotiation Body • Dr. Farida Al Hosani, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Global Institute for Disease Elimination, United Arab Emirates <p>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Ilona Kickbusch</p> <p>A moderated discussion with representatives from emerging economies on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and regional health priorities and their influence on the global agenda • The role of G20 and BRICS in global health cooperation and financing • Opportunities and challenges for emerging economies in global health policy-making |
| 18:00-18:30 | Break |
| Session 2: Accountability and Innovation in New Health Landscape | |
| 18:30-18:45 | <p>Fireside Chat</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, Acting WHO Regional Director for Africa, WHO</p> <p>Moderator: Andrew Sollinger, CEO & Publisher Foreign Policy</p> <p>“The WHO and the Future of Global Health Governance”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO’s current role in global health coordination • Challenges and strategic priorities in today’s geopolitical environment • Possible reforms and innovations in global health governance structures |

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| 18:45-19:05 | <p>Dialogue – “The Role of Regional Institutions: EU and AU Perspectives”</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General Africa CDC • Additional speaker tbc <p>Moderator: Dr. Mayesha Alam, Senior Vice President of Research at Foreign Policy Analytics</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institutional mandates and priorities of EU and AU • Collaboration between regional actors in health policy and crisis response • Strengths and limitations of regional coordination mechanisms |
| 19:05-19:25 | <p>Discussion – “Private Sector Engagement in Global Health”</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Prashant Yadav, Senior Fellow for Global Health, Council on Foreign Relations • Dr. Carolina Batista, Head of Global Health Affairs, Baraka Impact Investment <p>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Ilona Kickbusch</p> <p>Key discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The future role of private investment in health • Opportunities and limitations of private sector collaboration • Ethical considerations and accountability in private sector engagement |
| 19:25-19:45 | <p>Discussion – “New Philanthropic Approaches in Global Health”</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naina Batra Subberwal, CEO, AVPN • Megan Challis, Head, Strategic Partnership, Wellcome Trust <p>Moderator: Allison Carlson, Executive Vice President of Foreign Policy Analytics</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of philanthropic actors in shaping health initiatives • Emerging models and areas of focus • Potential and risks of philanthropic influence in global health policy |
| 19:45 – 20:00 | <p>Closing – Outlook on WHS 2025 and Regional Meeting 2026</p> <p>Closing remarks by Prof. Dr. Axel Pries und Carsten Schicker (WHS)</p> |

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| | Video Message by Prof. Lukoye Atwoli, Dean Aga Khan University Medical College, Kenya |
| Reception | |
| 20:00 – 21:30 | Reception |