



Is Democracy Good for Health?

A Discussion on the Political Determinants of Health

Organised by the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of
International and Development Studies

Biographies of Speakers

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MODERATOR

ILONA KICKBUSCH

Director, Global Health Centre, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies



Ilona Kickbusch's key interests relate to the political determinants of health, health in all policies and global health. She established the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies in Geneva. In this context she advises countries on their global health strategies and trains health specialists and diplomats in global health diplomacy. She is a member of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board and the WHO High-Level Independent Commission on NCDS and is co-chair of UHC 2030. She acts as Council Chair to the World Health Summit in Berlin. She has been involved in German G7 and G20

activities relating to global health and chairs the international advisory board for the development of the German global health strategy. She publishes widely and serves on various commissions and boards. She initiated the @wgh300 list of women leaders in global health. She is program chair of the leaders in health network SCIANA. Professor Kickbusch has had a distinguished career with the World Health Organization. She was a key instigator of the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion and WHO's Healthy Cities Network and has remained a leader in this field, most recently advising on the WHO activities related to Promoting Health in the SDGs. She was the director of the Global Health Division at Yale University School of Public Health and responsible for the first major Fulbright Programme on global health. She has recently been awarded the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (*Bundesverdienstkreuz*) in recognition of her "invaluable contributions to innovation in governance for global health and global health diplomacy". You can follow her on Twitter @IlonaKickbusch

SPEAKERS

THOMAS BOLLYKY

Director, Global Health Program; Senior Fellow for Global Health, Economics, and Development, Council on Foreign Relations



Thomas Bollyky is director of the Global Health Program and senior fellow for global health, economics, and development at the Council on Foreign Relations. He is also an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University. Bollyky is also the author of the book *Plagues and the Paradox of Progress: Why the World Is Getting Healthier in Worrisome Ways*. He has been a consultant to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization, and served in a variety of roles in the U.S. government, including

most recently at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Bollyky was a Fulbright scholar to South Africa, where he worked at the AIDS Law Project, and at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, where he represented clients before the International Court of Justice and the U.S. Supreme Court. Bollyky has testified multiple times before the U.S. Senate and his work has appeared in many publications, including *Foreign Affairs*, the *New York Times*, *Science*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Bollyky received his BA in biology and history at Columbia University and his JD at Stanford Law School. In 2013, the World Economic Forum named Bollyky as one of its global leaders under forty.

EDWIN NG

Assistant Professor, University of Waterloo



Edwin Ng is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Renison University College, affiliated with University of Waterloo. He completed his PhD in Social Science and Health in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. His primary research integrates political economy, public health, and social work. Specifically, his work focuses on how population health and health inequalities are generated and reproduced through democratic politics, social protection policies, and social class relations. He uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to advance Rudolf Virchow's famous argument that "Medicine is a social science, and politics nothing but medicine at a larger scale."

YVETTE STEVENS

Former Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva



Yvette Stevens has had a long experience in the United Nations, having served in six UN entities. At the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, she served as: Chief of the Programme and Technical Support Section, which provided expertise to UNHCR programmes in the various fields, including health; Evaluation Officer providing analyses of refugee situations in over 30 countries, all over the world. She also served UNHCR in Africa, as Deputy Liaison Representative in Ethiopia and as the UNHCR Representative to Kenya and Somalia. She was the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed

Countries in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, later the Director at the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in New York. In these two positions, her role involved general advocacy for development in Africa and the Least Developed Countries. She served as the United Nations Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator and Director of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva, during the Indian Ocean Tsunami, the Pakistan Earthquake and other major disasters. She was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva, in August 2012. Later that year, she was also accredited to the World Trade Organization and as Ambassador to Switzerland. Sierra Leone was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2012, and Ms. Stevens represented Sierra Leone as a Member of the Council for three years – 2013, 2014 and 2015, during which period she participated actively in the deliberations of the Council, including the human rights of women and minorities. As Ambassador of Sierra Leone during the Ebola crisis of 2014/2015, she was instrumental in garnering international attention and support.

SUSAN BROWN

Director, Public Policy Engagement, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation



Susan Brown is Director of Public Policy Engagement at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Priorities include policy and political dialogues involving primary and preventative health care, universal health coverage, health emergencies, fragile and conflict settings, global health security and health in relation to other sectors such as gender, finance, development and environment. She is a Sherpa in the SDG Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well Being and sits on the Steering Committee of UHC 2030. Previously, she was Director of Global and Regional Policy and Head of the Policy and External Affairs Cluster for WWF International. Other past achievements include key roles in the substantial expansion and reform of Federal environmental law in Australia (the EPBC Act negotiations) and has run a conservation organisation covering an extensive area of northern Australia. Over 14 years of multilateral negotiation work, she has developed a deep understanding of geopolitical dynamics, considerable knowledge of the behaviours and motivations of decision makers and the process of decision making. She has led global network teams to significant recognition of their objectives in major international processes and forums including the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN resolutions, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNFCCC preparatory meetings and Copenhagen COP, the UN Environment Assembly, Rio +20, the World Health Assembly, 12 UN General Assemblies, the Astana Primary Health Care conference and many others.