

10th Anniversary of the Open Briefing Introduction to the 77th World Health Assembly Addressing Health Challenges in an Increasingly Polarized World

Sunday, May 26, 2024, 11:00-13:00 CEST

In person at the Ivan Pictet Auditorium, Geneva Graduate Institute and live streamed on YouTube

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Welcome Remarks & Program Overview

Ahmed Ogwel Ouma

Vice President, Global Health Strategy, UN Foundation



Dr Ahmed OGWELL was recently appointed as Vice President of Global Health Strategies at the UN Foundation. He is the immediate former Deputy Director General at Africa CDC where he led the programmes strategy and delivery. He was also the inaugural Deputy Director at Africa CDC and then its Acting Director, leading Africa's complex and successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Previously, Ahmed worked for nearly a decade with WHO at both its headquarters and regional office for Africa. At the country level, he held senior positions at the Ministry of Health of Kenya where he set up the departments of Non-communicable Diseases and then that of International Health Relations.

Dr Ahmed is an alumni of the University of Nairobi, and the Centre for International Health at the University of Bergen in Norway.

WHA77 Modalities & Priority Issues

Gian Luca Burci

Adjunct Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute



Gian Luca Burci is Adjunct Professor of international law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva since 2012. He is also the Director of the joint LLM on Global Health Law and Governance between the Graduate Institute and Georgetown Law School, as well as Academic Adviser in the Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute. Since 2016, Prof. Burci is Visiting Professor and Senior Scholar at the O'Neill Center on National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University School of Law. He previously worked in the Department of International Cooperation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (1998-1999). During his service in WHO, he was involved in the negotiation and implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the revision and implementation of the International Health Regulations, WHO's response to the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic and the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak as well as the institutional aspects of WHO reform.

Prof. Burci holds a postgraduate degree in law from the University of Genova, Italy. His areas of expertise are public international law, the law and practice of international organizations as well as global health governance and law.

Fireside Chat: Pandemic Accord and International Health Regulations

Speakers

Ashley Bloomfield

Co-Chair, International Health Regulations Working Group



Sir Ashley Bloomfield trained in medicine at the University of Auckland and specialised in public health medicine. He has 25 years experience in public policy and health leadership, including at the World Health Organization in Geneva. His professional areas of interest are non-communicable disease prevention and control and addressing health inequities. He was New Zealand's Director-General of Health from June 2018 to July 2022 and led the country's health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He was appointed a Knights Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (KNZM) in the 2023 New Year Honours for services to public health. He is now a Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Auckland.

Precious Matsoso

Co-Chair, Intergovernmental Negotiation Body



Precious Matsoso is the former Director-General of the South African National Department of Health. She was the World Health Organisation Director of Public Health Innovation and Intellectual Property. Prior to that, she served as WHO Director, Department of Technical Cooperation for Essential Drugs and Traditional Medicines. She was the Registrar of the Medicines Control Council for six years. She has served on various advisory bodies both nationally and internationally and was Chair of the WHO Executive Board. She served as a member of the UN High-Level Panel on Access to Health Technologies, Chairperson of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme. She was a member of the Lancet Global Health Commission on High Quality Health Systems. She was the Co-Chair of WHO Digital Health Advisory Group. She was appointed as a member of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

Precious Matsoso is currently the Co-chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to Draft and Negotiate a WHO Convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (INB). She is the Director of the Health Regulatory Science Platform, a division of the Wits Health Consortium and an Honorary Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of the Witwatersrand.

Moderator

Priti Patnaik

Founding Editor, Geneva Health Files



Priti Patnaik is the founder of [Geneva Health Files](#), an entrepreneurial journalistic initiative that tracks power and politics in global health. She began publishing her [investigative newsletter](#) in April 2020, that now reaches 6000+ readers across nearly 140 countries. It offers actionable information to decision-makers in global health who pay for original news, analysis and investigations. Patnaik has been an independent journalist with over 20 years of experience reporting on global health, international trade, finance and illicit financial flows, from Geneva, New York City and New Delhi. She has also worked at a UN public health agency. She has a master's degree in Development Studies from the Geneva Graduate Institute and a master's degree in Business and Economic Reporting from New York University. She also has a bachelor's degree in Microbiology, Genetics and Chemistry from Osmania University, India.

Overview of WHO's 14th General Programme of Work

Bruce Aylward

Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage and Life Course, World Health Organization



In the position of Assistant Director-General of the Universal Health Coverage, Life Course Division, Dr Aylward drives the Organization's agenda to make primary health care available to all without financial hardship, and oversees WHO's work on health systems, immunization and reproductive, maternal and child health. Prior to taking up this position, Dr Aylward served as Senior Advisor to the Director-General and Assistant Director-General ad interim for External Relations and Governance, leading WHO's strategic engagement in the areas of governance, resource mobilization and partner relations, while continuing to oversee WHO's Transformation Agenda and the Organization's involvement in special initiatives such as the multi-agency Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) Hub and the G20 Joint Finance-Health Task Force. Dr Aylward has 30 years of experience with WHO, working at all three levels of the organization and serving in a range of leadership positions including Director of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Partnership, Assistant Director-General of the WHO Polio and Emergencies Cluster, Executive Director of the WHO Emergencies Programme, and Deputy Director-General for the West Africa Ebola Response. He also served as the Special Representative of the Director-General to the United Nations Emergency Ebola Response (UNMEER) from September 2014 to July 2016. In 2016, Dr Aylward led the establishment of the new WHO Emergencies Programme, then managed the reform of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) before returning to WHO in late 2017 to lead the design and implementation of WHO's ongoing Transformation Agenda.

Dr Aylward is a physician and epidemiologist with a Medical Doctorate from the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, a diploma from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom, and a Master's Degree in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in the United States of America.

Moderated Discussion 1: WHO's 14th General Programme of Work and Geopolitics: How can WHO evolve to meet new challenges?

Speakers

Pascale Allotey

Director, WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research including UNDP-UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP)



Pascale Allotey is Director of the World Health Organization Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research including UNDP-UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP). Pascale is a globally recognized expert in sexual and reproductive health and rights. Previously she was the Director of the United Nations University's International Institute for Global Health, located in Malaysia. She brings over three decades of experience as a global public health researcher, with work across four continents. Her work has covered health equity, health and human rights, gender and social determinants of health, forced migration and marginalization, infectious diseases, and non-communicable diseases.

Previous roles include Professor of Public Health and Deputy Head of School (Research) at the Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Monash University (Malaysia); founding Associate Director of the South East Asia Community Observatory (SEACO Malaysia); Professor of Race, Diversity and Professional Practice, Brunel University (United Kingdom). Pascale has been celebrated by the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) for her early work in anthropology and gender, which provided critical evidence contributing to women receiving protective bed nets, and she served on the TDR STAC.

She holds a PhD in Public Health and a MMedSci in Community Health from the University of Western Australia, and a BA in Nursing and Psychology from the University of Ghana, Legon. She is a triple-certified nurse, midwife and public health nurse and has a multidisciplinary background in clinical health sciences, implementation research, anthropology, and epidemiology.

Anna Coates

WHO Gender Focal Point, Office of the Director-General, World Health Organization



Anna Coates is the WHO Gender Focal Point in the Office of the Director-General. She is an internationally distinguished gender equality, intersectionality, and health equity expert and advocate, offering creative management experience leading policy development and driving change management. Anna delivers visionary negotiation and diplomatic skills, with expertise and hands-on focus in North America, Latin America, Caribbean, Africa, and Asia-Pacific regions. She drives inclusive consensus- building amongst local and regional policy makers in the public and private sector while inspiring teams through trust, accountability, and values-based goal setting. Anna is fluent in English and Spanish.

Anders Nordström

Former Ambassador for Global Health at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Medical doctor by background from the Karolinska Institute. Today advisor associated with the Karolinska Institute and the Stockholm School of Economics as well as principal senior fellow at the UN University International Institute for Global Health in Malaysia. He is currently a member of the Alliance for Health Systems Research's board, the SUN-Lancet PRIME Commission, the International Vaccine Institute Global Advisory Group of Experts, and the Virchow Foundation for Global Health Council. Recently he headed the Secretariat for the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (2020-21). He served as Acting

Director-General for WHO (May 2006 – January 2007) and as Assistant Director General for General Management (2003-2006), Assistant Director General for Health Systems and Services (2007) and Head of the WHO Country Office in Sierra Leone (2015-17). As the Interim Executive Director, he established the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as a legal entity in 2002. He has previously served as board member of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, GAVI, UNAIDS and PMNCH and chaired a number of international working groups and processes. He was the Director-General for the Swedish International Agency for Development Cooperation (2007-2010).

Moderator

Suerie Moon

Director, Global Health Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute



Suerie Moon is Professor of Practice, Department of International Relations & Political Science, and Director of the Global Health Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute. She focuses on global governance and health, with specialized expertise in innovation and access to medicines, outbreak preparedness and response; trade, investment and intellectual property rules; and development assistance. She is the Principal Investigator on five research projects, and the recipient of a career grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation. Her current research examines new business models of pharmaceutical R&D, international sharing of outbreak-prone pathogens and related benefits, and the global governance of Covid-19.

Moderated Discussion 2: Funding GPW14 in the context of global health needs and the future of global health initiatives

Speakers

Daniel Thornton

Director, Coordinated Resource Mobilization, World Health Organization



Daniel Thornton joined the World Health Organization (WHO) at the end of February 2024 as the Director, Coordinated Resource Mobilization. He is coordinating the effort to achieve sustainable financing for WHO and developing WHO's partnerships. Daniel was previously at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance where he was Director for Replenishments, and played a key role in several replenishments for Gavi and fundraising rounds for COVAX as well as working as Chief of Staff and improving immunisation supply chains. Daniel previously held senior roles in the UK and international Civil Service.

Desta Lakew

Co-chair of the Lusaka Agenda Working Group and Group Director of Partnerships and External Affairs at Amref Health Africa



Desta Lakew serves on the Executive Management and Senior Management teams of Amref Health Africa leading Global Partnerships and Global Communications divisions for Africa. In this role, she has secured high level strategic global partnerships for Amref Health Africa, raised the profile of the organization, and leads the thought leadership agenda of the organization. Her leadership role has included working closely with global partners and key stakeholders in Africa to advance public health priorities for the region. She was instrumental in the establishment and leadership of the bi-annual Africa Health Agenda International Conference. She has also been instrumental in launching a global south dialogue knowledge exchange platform on Universal Health Coverage in Africa and Asia; and the launching of various campaigns including the COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Campaign in Africa and Communities at the Heart of UHC global advocacy campaign. Desta serves on several global committees including the Thematic Working Group on Private Sector of Health Systems Global, the Future of Global Health Initiatives, the Global Patient Think Tank, and the Global Health Equity Group. Desta holds a Master of Public Health from the State University of New York.

Björn Kümmel

Deputy Head of Unit, Global Health, German Federal Ministry of Health



Björn Kümmel is the Deputy Head of Unit Global Health in the German Federal Ministry of Health. He covers WHO in general and in particular WHO reform, WHO's emergency reform as well as WHO's administrative, budgetary and staff issues. Part of his work is attending the governing body meetings of WHO such as the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and representing Germany in WHO's Programme, Budget and Administrative Committee. He is also responsible for increasing policy coherence among relevant German actors in the field of global health. In this regard, he coordinated the Federal Government's concept paper on global health. From 2007-2010 he worked on the General European Health Policy Planning and from 2005-2007 he was part of the Task Force for the German

EU Presidency. A lawyer by training, he completed his studies in Berlin, Padova and Sydney, and holds an LLM in International Law from the University of Cape Town.

Moderator

Lori Sloate

Senior Director, Global Health, UN Foundation



Lori works with global, regional and domestic partners to align programs to meet Sustainable Development Goals. Her portfolio includes initiatives to improve sustainable financing and health, mobilizing resources for UN agencies, global immunization, and partner relationships with an overall focus on strategy, public policy, and advocacy. She represents UNF as the Foundations Representative on UHC2030, the co-chair for Advocacy & Communications Immunization Agenda 2030, and the UNF Representative for the Measles & Rubella Partnership which has raised and allocated over \$700 million through UNF since 2001. Prior to her work at UNF, she was the Deputy Director of Advocacy and Public Policy at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

for four years. While at the World Health Organization for nearly ten years, she worked with ministries and partners, advocating for global campaigns around various health issues. She has worked with other UN agencies such as UNESCAP in Bangkok and with UNOPS in Vietnam promoting the work of pro-poor public private partnerships and capacity building initiatives. Earlier in her career, Ms. Sloate worked in Mozambique with an NGO on a health and sanitation program through a social mobilization effort with rural communities. Ms. Sloate has a Master's Degree in Intercultural and International Management from the School for International Training in the US and has studied economics and development at the University of Nice, France and holds a Bachelor's Degree with a major in French and Economics.

Closing Reflections

Suerie Moon

Director, Global Health Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute