

Health at the Heart of Climate Action: Turning Frameworks into Reality

20 February 2025
Geneva Graduate Institute
Auditorium A1B, 12:30-14.00, with reception following
In person and online on Webex

Co-hosts: Global Climate and Health Alliance and World Health Organization

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Welcome/Opening Remarks

Vinh-Kim Nguyen

Co-Director, Global Health Centre/ Professor, Anthropology and Sociology, Geneva Graduate Institute



Vinh-Kim Nguyen is an HIV and Emergency physician and medical anthropologist. As both practitioner and researcher, he is concerned with the relationship between science, politics and practice in global health. He practices Emergency Medicine at Avicenna Hospital in Paris and the Jewish General Hospital in Montréal, currently holds an ERC Consolidator Grant (Research Chair) on the science and politics of a world without AIDS and heads a team of anthropologists researching the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. He is Professor in the School of Public Health the University of Montreal where he leads the PhD track in Global Health, and Professor of Anthropology and Sociology of Development in the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies in Geneva; he also holds an honorary chair at the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in Paris which hosts researchers working on global health issues.

Since 1994 he has worked extensively with community organisations responding to the HIV epidemic in West Africa as a trainer and physician. This work informed his anthropological research on the global response to HIV with a concern for the forms of triage and sovereignty they embody. He continues to follow the evolving scientific and political response to HIV and Ebola in his current work. He draws on molecular epidemiology, global health and social theory to argue for a paradigm shift in eliminating infectious diseases.

He is the author of *The Republic of Therapy: Triage and Sovereignty in West Africa's Time of AIDS*; coauthor, with Margaret Lock, of *An Anthropology of Biomedicine* and also the co-editor, with Jennifer Klot, of *The Fourth Wave: Violence, Gender, Culture, and HIV in the 21st Century*, as well as numerous articles in biomedical and anthropological journals.

Speakers

Maria Neira

Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, World Health Organization



Dr Maria P. Neira is the Director of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health at the World Health Organization. Prior to that she served as Under-Secretary of Health and President of the Spanish Food Safety Agency.

Dr Neira began her career as a medical coordinator working for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). She then spent several years working in different African countries during armed conflicts.

Dr Neira is a Medical Doctor by training, specialized in Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases in Paris, France, Master of Public Health and a University Diploma in Human Nutrition, Epidemic Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Among many distinctions, she has been awarded the Médaille de “L’Ordre National du Mérite” by the Government of France and received an “Extraordinary Woman” award by HM Queen Letizia of Spain. In early 2019, she was nominated among the top 100 policy influencers in health and climate change.

Rosie Tasker

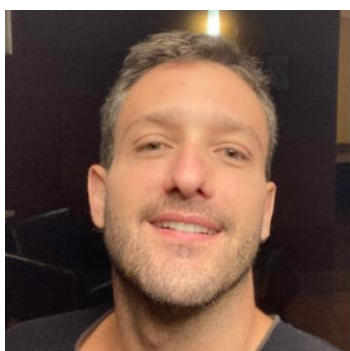
Clean Air Liaison, Global Climate and Health Alliance



Rosie Tasker leads GCHA’s work to embed clean air and climate considerations in WHO policy processes. She convenes key non-governmental stakeholders in Geneva and around the world, and engages with Permanent Missions on issues of environment and health to support constructive policymaking on climate and health, including the adoption of a World Health Assembly Resolution on Climate Change and Health in 2024, its accompanying plan of action, and coherence with UNFCCC policymaking. With a decade of experience in international health policy, Rosie also holds a role with the Union for International Cancer Control and previously worked with the NCD Alliance and the British Red Cross. She received her MSc in Global Health and Development from University College London and completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Oxford.

Gustavo dos Santos Souza

Acting Coordinator, General Coordination of Climate Change and Health Equity Department of Environmental Health Surveillance and Workers' Health Secretariat of Health Surveillance and Environment, Ministry of Health of Brazil



Gustavo dos Santos Souza holds a bachelor's and a teaching degree in nursing. He is a public health professional at the Brazilian Ministry of Health, working in the Secretariat of Health and Environmental Surveillance since 2015. He currently serves as the General Coordinator for Climate Change and Health Equity Surveillance within the Secretariat.

He holds a Ph.D. in Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology and a master's degree in sciences, specializing in Environmental Epidemiology.

With solid experience in public health, epidemiological surveillance, and environmental health, he has also completed postgraduate studies in Public Health Organization Management and Occupational Nursing. He further enhanced his expertise through the Online Training Program in Epidemiology for Public Health Managers at Johns Hopkins University, strengthening his work at the intersection of public health, health management and environmental issues.

Astrid Dunselman

Coordinating Policy Officer, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, Kingdom of the Netherlands

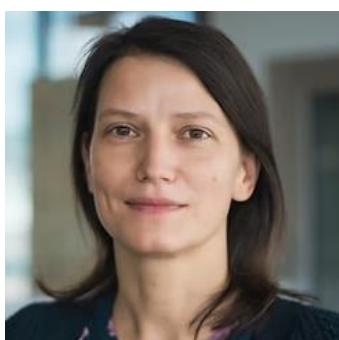


Astrid Dunselman was the Netherlands' Health Attache in Geneva from 2020 to 2024, co-chairing the negotiations for the Climate Change and Health resolution at WHA in 2024. She started to work on global health diplomacy in 2017 for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was posted at the Netherlands Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, as deputy head of the Economic Affairs department and worked on Consular Affairs in The Hague. She has a BA in International Relations and International Organization and an MA in Journalism from the University of Groningen.

Moderator

Daniela Morich

Senior Manager and Advisor, Global Health Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute



Daniela Morich presently serves as the Senior Manager and Advisor at the Governing Pandemics Initiative hosted by the Global Health Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute. She maintains active collaborations with diverse research institutes and non-profit organisations, particularly in the realms of environmental and climate change law. At the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Daniela is a writer for the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB).

Daniela, a French-qualified lawyer admitted to the Paris Bar, has worked on a wide range of legal and political affairs in multilateral institutions, non-profit organisations, and the U.S. Government. She started her career within the United Nations systems and held assignments at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in Burundi and the International Labor Organization (ILO), in Italy. She gained extensive experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy while holding positions at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan and the U.S. Mission to UNESCO in Paris, France. In the private sector, Daniela worked at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP in its Paris international arbitration group where she focused on public international law matters and inter-State and commercial arbitration cases. Most recently, she co-directed the executive education Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Environmental Governance at the Geneva Graduate Institute.

Daniela received her BA in law from the University of Trieste (Italy) and her MA in International Relations and LL.M in International Law from London Metropolitan University (UK). Daniela speaks English, French and Italian

Closing Remarks

Ellen Roskam

Coordinator, International Geneva Global Health Platform, Global Health Centre



Ellen Roskam joined the Global Health Centre in October 2022 as the Coordinator of the International Geneva Global Health Platform, convening international Geneva stakeholders across the global health community to collaborate, capture lessons, gain foresight from data insights and experiences, and seek scalable solutions to complex global health challenges.

She holds a PhD from the University of Lausanne, School of Management; a Master in Public Health from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Public Health; and a Bachelor degree from the University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology.

Prior to joining the Global Health Centre, Ellen worked extensively as a global public health practitioner, technical specialist, researcher, and university professor in various international organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Center for Social Epidemiology, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, The Global Fund, Boston University School of Public Health, Webster University, the Global Health Centre, Bosphorus University, NGOs and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Most recently, she led research for the Concept Foundation on the challenges for Ministries of Health in 9 sub-Saharan African countries to provide essential medicines to prevent and treat post-partum hemorrhage to reduce maternal mortality and achieve Universal Health Coverage and she managed the mercury and health portfolio at WHO for more than 2.5 years.

Ellen is a senior Strategist for Research & Global Public Health and Advisory Board Member for the Center for Social Epidemiology; Senior Advisor to AMIRRAH (NGO); member of Women in Global Health Switzerland and GENDRO; advisory board member for various journals.