

Welcome Message Angela Merkel

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To relieve human suffering, the international community adopted at the start of the new millennium eight fundamental goals to be achieved by 2015. Three of these Millennium Development Goals are directly related to better health care. While considerable progress has been made in tackling scourges such as AIDS and malaria, the challenges will of course not end post-2015. If for no other reason than the interconnected nature of the Development Goals, international efforts to advance them will require unwavering commitment and hard work.

This year's World Health Summit takes place at a time of intensive national and international debate about what new concrete targets are required to ensure a decent life and a better future for the world's rapidly expanding population. In this context health care will remain a key concern.

As patron of the World Health Summit, I am delighted to see the broad interest it generates. It provides a forum for distinguished experts from all over the globe – academics, corporate executives and policy-makers – to discuss joint strategies for action. Their prime concern here is what people need everywhere to lead a decent life. So I sincerely hope that all Summit participants will have a stimulating and productive meeting.

Dr. Angela Merkel

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

Um menschliches Leid zu lindern, hat sich die Weltgemeinschaft zu Beginn dieses Jahrtausends acht grundlegende Ziele bis 2015 gesetzt. Drei dieser Millenniumsziele beziehen sich unmittelbar auf eine bessere Gesundheitsversorgung. Bislang erreichte Fortschritte beispielsweise bei der Bekämpfung von Aids und Malaria sind durchaus sehr erfreulich. Doch die Herausforderungen werden 2015 gewiss nicht enden. Schon allein angesichts vielfältiger Interdependenzen zwischen den einzelnen Handlungsfeldern der Entwicklungsziele gilt es, in den gemeinsamen Anstrengungen nicht nachzulassen.

Der diesjährige World Health Summit fällt in eine Phase, in der in und zwischen den Staaten der Welt intensiv darüber diskutiert wird, welche neuen konkreten Vorgaben zu setzen sind, um die Lebens- und Entwicklungsgrundlagen einer rasant wachsenden Weltbevölkerung zu sichern. Gesundheitsversorgung wird dabei auch künftig eine zentrale Rolle spielen.

Daher freue ich mich als Schirmherrin über die breite Resonanz, die der World Health Summit erfährt. Er führt zahlreiche international renommierte Experten aus Wissenschaft, Wirtschaft und Politik zusammen, um geeignete Strategien gemeinsamen Handelns zu erörtern. Im Mittelpunkt ihrer Beratungen stehen wesentliche Voraussetzungen für ein menschenwürdiges Leben in allen Teilen der Welt. Daher wünsche ich von Herzen allen am World Health Summit Beteiligten einen anregenden und ertragreichen Gedankenaustausch.

François Hollande

By acting once again as patron of the World Health Summit, I wish to affirm the responsibility of States in promoting health worldwide. To promote health means improving the well-being of our fellow citizens, developing education and prevention, protecting our environment, better understanding diseases to better treat them, and ensuring access to health care for all. The goals remain, but they are of even greater significance than in the past owing to the growth of world population and the increase in inequalities, among nations and within a single nation.

There can be no halt in our common fight against undernutrition and prematurity, environmental pollution, and infectious and parasitic diseases. In order to shape the strategies of tomorrow, it is hence necessary to bring together the actors of progress, whether they be institutional, community-based, or from the public or private sector. You are here, as participants in this World Summit, to provide new impetus.

I thank you and wish you every success in your work.



François Hollande
President of the French Republic

En parrainant, à nouveau, le Sommet Mondial de la Santé, je tiens à affirmer la responsabilité des États dans la promotion de la Santé dans le monde. Promouvoir la Santé, c'est améliorer le bien-être de nos concitoyens, développer l'éducation et la prévention, protéger notre environnement, mieux comprendre les maladies pour mieux les traiter, permettre l'accès aux soins pour tous. Les objectifs demeurent, mais ils se posent avec plus d'acuité encore que par le passé en raison de la croissance de la population mondiale, et de la majoration des inégalités, entre les nations et au sein d'une même nation.

Il ne saurait y avoir de pause dans notre lutte commune contre la dénutrition ou la prématurité, la pollution environnementale ou les maladies infectieuses et parasitaires. De manière à définir les stratégies de demain, il est donc nécessaire de réunir les acteurs du progrès, institutionnels ou associatifs, publics ou privés. Vous êtes ici, participants à ce Sommet Mondial, pour donner un nouvel élan.

Je vous remercie et vous souhaite une pleine réussite dans vos travaux.



François Hollande

Welcome Message José Manuel Barroso

José Manuel Barroso



José Manuel Barroso

The wealth of nations

There is no better indicator of the true wealth of a society than the state of its health systems, their effectiveness and inclusiveness. At a time when our knowledge and experience in the health sector are far advanced but money is scarce, whether we are ready and able to invest further in health is one of the hallmarks of development. The European Union is committed to this goal, to do whatever we can to adapt our health systems to the needs of the 21st century, both within and outside Europe, and to develop more efficient and effective public health systems, delivering greater health benefits at lower cost.

That is why investment and innovation in European health systems, who are at the core of our high level of social protection and form a cornerstone of the European social model, are a key component of our efforts to fight the challenges brought upon us by the economic crisis. That is also one of the reasons why the EU remains the largest donor of development aid in the world. The European Commission alone annually commits more than 8 billion euro. Health is one of the main focal points of this aid – health initiatives accounting for half a billion euro a year – and for good reasons: that is where our investments make a real difference for our partners, where aid has shown to be both necessary and effective. Investing in health systems is not just a social imperative. It is also, if you will, good economics, as it helps tackle the root causes of underdevelopment, poverty and instability. In many ways, personal health is a public good.

Personal health needs public support. Through a comprehensive approach we can improve health systems, provide better access to health services, invest in related areas like nutrition, sanitation and clean water, and address the broader social issues that impact health.

The European Union will keep its leadership on development cooperation. Even in financially difficult times, we are securing and deepening our toolbox, including aid. More specifically, we envisage at least 20% of our multi-annual aid budget 2014-2020 to be devoted to human development and social inclusion, including health, in the future as well. We particularly intend to increase our financing for health research in low income countries, for instance through a five-fold increase of the Commission contribution to the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, which aims at the development of new drugs and vaccines for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Experience has shown that it is not just how much we spend, but how we spend that makes a difference. For that reason, the World Health Summit 2013 will focus on the interplay between health and wealth, development and inequality, research and education, and on the role of health in all aspects of foreign policy. These interconnections matter even more in the light of new and emerging health threats that arise from increasing global mobility, migration flows, demographic change, environmental pollution and climate change.

Above all, health is a value in itself, and investing in health is a moral imperative. I am particularly honoured to be the patron of the 2013 World Health Summit, together with Chancellor Angela Merkel and President François Hollande. I believe that the Summit's success will be another clear signal that the world comes together to fight unacceptable health standards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long horizontal stroke and a small dot at the end.

José Manuel Barroso
President of European Commission