

WELCOME MESSAGE ANGELA MERKEL



Angela Merkel

Global challenges call for global responses. This applies also and in particular to the fight against infectious diseases. These diseases do not end at national borders. The global increase in mobility also increases risk that they will spread. The international community knows all too well that epidemics can have disastrous consequences. That is why, this year, Germany made Global Health Policy a focus of its G20 Presidency. Under the motto "Shaping an interconnected world", we and our partners have successfully sent a strong signal of cooperation.

The aim is to strengthen the world's healthcare systems. This means guaranteeing both extensive preventive measures and, in the event of a crisis, a rapid international response. The United Nations and the World Health Organization are crucial for coordinating these efforts. Their structures must be made fit for this purpose, and they must receive sufficient funding. To effectively fight global health crises, all actors need to cooperate efficiently. A key requirement is of course that countries have well functioning healthcare systems in place. It is not only important at local level, but also in the global interest, that healthcare specialists on the ground can detect outbreaks of dangerous diseases at an early stage.

That is why one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to ensure universal healthcare. This includes global responses in the fight against antimicrobial resistance. All our efforts to improve healthcare structures will amount to very little if therapies become ineffective. Antibiotics must therefore be used responsibly, so that the spread of resistant bacteria can be limited. Moreover, new vaccines and antibiotics must be developed. In tackling this great challenge, it is paramount that we coordinate our support for research and development, and that we employ our resources in a targeted way. I am therefore delighted that the G20 countries have agreed to establish a global research initiative.

Shaping an interconnected world: To fully live up to this responsibility and give globalisation a human dimension, we must first have a comprehensive dialogue. The World Health Summit has become a well and widely respected international forum when it comes to the joint search for effective responses to global health issues. I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the valuable work you are doing, by contributing your knowledge and experience to this common effort. As patron of the World Health Summit 2017, I would like to welcome all the participants to Berlin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Angela Merkel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Angela Merkel

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

In today's connected and interdependent world, health threats must be tackled globally. An integrated approach must be taken. This global approach to health is one of the G20's key priorities.

The Sustainable Development Goals adopted as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations are aimed at every country in the world in a global, partner-based and universal approach. Goal 3 on Health, in particular, aims to stamp out the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases and to effectively fight noncommunicable diseases by 2030. The objective is to ultimately provide universal health coverage, with access to safe, efficient, affordable vaccines and medicines. To make this happen, it is essential to support the research and development of new vaccines.

The resurgence in resistance to antibiotics, which the World Health Organization, the G20 and the European Union see as an absolute priority, has proven that we must never stop being vigilant. To this end, France has joined forces with Germany to create a global R&D platform on antibiotic resistance. This must be carried forward in an integrated, systemic and unified approach. We must link environmental, public and animal health at local, national and global levels based on the concept of "One Health". France committed to this at the G20 in Hamburg and the Franco-German Council of Ministers in Paris. I want priority to be given to developing new medicines, but also to R&D for new methods of diagnosis.

Personalized medicine and global health must receive an integrated response, involving medicine, biology, food, urbanization, environment and education. To achieve this, cooperation between states, the scientific, economic and medical stakeholders, and civil society is essential and must be planned over the long term. The World Health Summit has become a key forum for addressing these issues in a cross-cutting manner by bringing together these actors on an international level.

The terms of globality and universality are now more than ever associated with health:

- international preventive measures;
- quality care for all, accessible to all;
- renewed support for health as a driver of development, growth and stability;
- and an ambitious research policy, which is a source of progress.

These are principles to which France is committed, and which it supports in international bodies.

As patron of this Summit, I would like to join with the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and the President of the European Commission in wishing you all an excellent and productive meeting.



Emmanuel Macron
President of the Republic of France



Emmanuel Macron

WELCOME MESSAGE JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER



Jean-Claude Juncker

As we get older, we naturally become more conscious of our health. This year the European Union celebrated its 60th birthday – a time both for celebration and reflection on the health of our Union.

The good news is that Europeans are living longer than ever before. Life expectancy has risen by a decade for both men and women in the last fifty years. That is in large part thanks to the progress we have made in healthcare standards, investment in prevention and welfare and pioneering research enabling breakthroughs in the fight against disease and illness.

However, as this year's World Health Summit themes show, there is no room for complacency when it comes to tackling the new and urgent health challenges facing Europe and the rest of the world. Poverty, rising inequalities and migration flows are all issues which have a significant impact on global health. Ensuring that as many citizens of the world have access to healthcare is a responsibility for us all. The same goes for research into prevention, sustainable development and understanding the health impact of an older and more urban population.

That shows the true importance of the World Health Summit as a hub for expertise, innovation and cooperation. Here in Europe we are committed to leading the way. This year we brought together networks of medical experts and hospitals in 26 countries to ensure that as many of the 30 million people in the EU suffering from 8,000 rare diseases each year have access to the specialised care and treatment they need. We also signalled our strong and unequivocal commitment to promoting vaccination as a driving force for improved health in Europe and the wider world.

Our joint resolve to protect the health and well-being of all of our citizens now and in the future is stronger than ever. As with every year, the World Health Summit is a key milestone in our efforts. I urge you all to make the most of the week and wish you successful event full of healthy discussions.

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Jean-Claude Juncker

President of the European Commission