



Charité Berlin World Health Summit

Welcome Message | Angela Merkel



Angela Merkel

Global challenges require joint action. This is particularly true when it comes to our health – for controlling and preventing disease and delivering health services raise highly complex issues for science and policy-making, the economy and society. The accelerating pace of change calls for innovative solutions. In a globalized world such solutions can be found only if we all work together.

Global responsibility and solidarity means that strong countries and strong partners must offer weaker partners a helping hand, joining forces with them to fight disease and to alleviate suffering. Serving the individual, after all, must be the motive for everything we do.

The health of every one of us is a precious asset that requires protection – in Germany, Europe and all over the world. Both the German Government's program and the UN Millennium Development Goals spell this out very clearly: putting the individual first must be a collective endeavor for all of us.

It was in this spirit of shared responsibility that the first World Health Summit was held in Berlin in 2009. Its resounding success both with the professional and the general public demonstrates that such a forum, with its interdisciplinary approach to health issues, can be a groundbreaking model for the future. In 2010, the year of the tercentenary of the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, the 2nd World Health Summit is again taking place in Berlin. As patron of this event, I am delighted that the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and its international partners have succeeded in establishing here a new tradition.

To the World Health Summit 2010 organizers and participants I wish a most stimulating and successful conference.

Angela Merkel
Chancellor of the Federal Republic
of Germany

Welcome Message | Nicolas Sarkozy

We are facing extraordinary challenges in health care and research. The worldwide increasing burden of chronic diseases brings up an urgent need for effective prevention strategies. The changing climate and its health consequences calls for adaptation strategies with regard to infectious diseases as well as food and water safety in all parts of our world. Life-expectancy between rich and poor countries still exceeds 40 years – a health gap that calls for coordinated action. We need local research capacities and well functioning academic systems in regions where health care is deficient. The financial crisis directly affects health outcomes, particularly where costs of health care are covered out of the pocket. Economic downturn increases the risk that people will neglect health care, particularly prevention. Less preventive care is particularly dangerous at a time when ageing and a rise in chronic diseases are global trends.

We can tackle these problems, but we can only succeed together. We need joint solutions backed up by governments, industry, medicine and health care systems, and civil society. I am proud and honoured to support and patronize the World Health Summit at the Charité. The World Health Summit is an important step towards the solutions we need. The M8 Alliance as an international network of prestigious medical universities has established this high-level conference of decision-makers, that provides an excellent academic framework and essential perspectives to develop sustainable and successful strategies for health care, health governance and health research on a European and global scale.

Nicolas Sarkozy
President of the French Republic

Under the High Patronage of
Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic
Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

Welcome Message | Kofi Annan



Nicolas Sarkozy

Public understanding of the causes of disease and sickness as well as the ability to address them has increased dramatically in my lifetime, but the health problems that remain are significant and come in many forms. They include the rapid spread of pandemics, the prevalence of scourges like HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis, but also the ever widening gap in access to health services and opportunities, and as a direct result, in life expectancy between rich and poor.

All these are problems for each and every one of us, regardless of where we live, what we do or how healthy we may feel at the moment. We now live in a world where the outbreak of disease in a distant region is of direct and immediate relevance to our own well-being; where progress in less developed countries and regions is to everyone's economic benefit; and where ensuring that everyone gains from globalization and the many remarkable advances of medicine is of crucial importance to global long-term security.

Our responses to health challenges are thus best coordinated at the global level, including through meetings such as this 2nd World Health Summit. Coming from around the globe and many different sectors you represent an enormous repository of knowledge and experience. In meeting and talking to each other you have the unique chance to think big and act big. I wish you all the necessary courage and vision to do so and look forward to seeing the results.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "K Annan".

Kofi Annan
Former Secretary-General of the
United Nations



Kofi Annan