

World Health Summit: UN Secretary-General Guterres: "The Covid-19 pandemic is the greatest crisis of our age."

World Health Summit with 300 experts on global health officially opened

(Berlin, Oct. 25, 2020)

On Sunday evening the 12th World Health Summit was officially opened – due to COVID-19 fully digital. All sessions are exclusively online.

Opening speaker **Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier** said: "No-one is safe from COVID-19; no-one is safe until we are all safe from it. Even those who conquer the virus within their own borders remain prisoners within these borders until it is conquered everywhere."

Ursula von der Leyen, EU Commission President made clear, that the hallmark of the European Health Union should be, that all pull together: "I believe this can be a test case for true global health compact. The need for leadership is clear and I believe the European Union must assume this responsibility."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for worldwide solidarity: "Developed countries must support health systems in countries that are short of resources." We were not prepared, Mr. Guterres said, and this was a hard lesson: "The Covid-19 pandemic is the greatest crisis of our age."

"A strong health system is a resilient health system," said **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)**. "Health systems and preparedness are not only an investment in the future, they are the foundation of our response today."

The importance of cooperation between politics, science, business and civil society across all borders is particularly evident during this period, said **Detlev Ganten, president and founder of the World Health Summit**: „The Covid 19 Pandemic is making it clear to everybody that solutions can only be found by overcoming personal, institutional, national interests. More than ever, the name of the game is international cooperation and solidarity."

Further speakers at the opening event:

- Winnie Byanyima, Direktorin, UNAIDS
- Paul Hudson, CEO, Sanofi
- Nanette Cocero, Global President of Pfizer Vaccines, Pfizer
- Charles Ibingira International President 2020, World Health Summit

The liverecording is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WorldHealthSummit1>

The entire program of the World Health Summit 2020 will be broadcast live digitally: The individual Zoom links are available cost-free on www.worldhealthsummit.org.

During all sessions, questions can be asked via the Zoom Q&A function, video and audio can be used on request.

All sessions will be available afterwards here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WorldHealthSummit1>

Accreditation for media representatives is not required.

On the second day of the summit, Monday, Oct. 26, speakers include (all data in CET):

- Marta Temido, Minister of Health, Portugal (11:00 am)
- Tomaž Gantar, Minister of Health, Slovenia (11:00 am)
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization WHO (9:00 am)
- Christian Drosten, Head, Institute of Virology, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (14:00 pm)
- Lothar H. Wieler, President, Robert Koch Institute (9:00 am & 11:00 am)
- Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO (9:00 am & 11:00 am)

The central topic of the World Health Summit 2020 is COVID-19.

The **World Health Summit** is one of the world's most important strategic meetings on global health and brings together leading international scientists, politicians, and representatives from industry and civil society. The forum was founded in 2009 to mark the 300th anniversary of the Charité and is under the patronage of German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**, French President **Emmanuel Macron**, European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** and **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, Director-General of the World Health Organization WHO.

Press information: www.worldhealthsummit.org/media/presskit

World Health Summit

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