

# WELCOME MESSAGE

## WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT PRESIDENTS



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## WELCOME TO THE WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT 2020

The spread of COVID-19 this year shows how essential the improvement of global health is and how crucial the strengthening of international and interdisciplinary cooperation remains.

A meeting like the World Health Summit with our strong partners, especially also the WHO, could not be more important in these days.

The COVID-19 epidemic has catapulted global health into the political focus. It has also reinforced the consistent message of the World Health Summit and our academic backbone, the M8 Alliance, that progress in global health is based on political choices and the application of strong policy-making instruments of governments and international institutions worldwide.

The World Health Summit brings together stakeholders from around the globe to engage in solutions. We consider strong and reliable governance—at global, national and local levels—essential for health and wellbeing. The world needs strong institutions to set norms and standards to be able to respond effectively to health deter-

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minants, outbreaks and to protect and support the most vulnerable. Their work needs the support of decision makers at the highest level. We therefore strongly support the important role of the WHO.

Reflecting on these past months of living with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are hopeful that this global health crisis emphasizes the essential nature of international, multilateral cooperation and will lead to the strengthening of multinational structures and organizations. Because viruses, infectious diseases, or other health threats, know no borders.

The World Health Summit and the M8 Alliance provide an ever more important forum for science, industry, civil society and politics. We are excited to welcome so many diverse speakers from different organizations who contribute tremendously to advancing science and educating the public. An educated public is more important than ever in this unprecedented health crisis to understand the voice of science and to understand the necessary measures to curb the spread of COVID-19.

We look forward to your participation at the World Health Summit 2020—in Berlin or online. Please remain healthy and keep safe.

**Charles Ibingira**

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