

# Questions & Answers World Health Summit 2025

**Prof. Axel R. Pries, President & Carsten Schicker, CEO**

## **Why is the World Health Summit more important today than ever before?**

**Axel R. Pries:** "Global health stands at a pivotal moment, as its architecture undergoes profound transformation. Health progress of the past decades and multilateralism as we know it are under threat in a fragmenting world. The challenges are immense: Due to US cuts in foreign humanitarian aid, up to 14 million additional lives could be lost by 2030. The World Health Summit is the leading global platform bringing together science, politics, civil society, and the private sector to catalyze collaborative and innovative solutions for key health priorities."

## **How does the World Health Summit build bridges across sectors?**

**Carsten Schicker:** "There is an urgent need to rethink, rebuild, and strengthen the global health system, anchored in shared responsibility and a renewed commitment to genuine global collaboration. Health priorities such as pandemic and climate resilience, drug resistance, noncommunicable diseases, and digital transformation require coordinated, cross-sectoral responses.

The World Health Summit brings together leaders and changemakers from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society to foster impactful partnerships. By bringing together these sectors, the World Health Summit accelerates innovation and change."

## **What are the biggest health challenges of our time?**

**Axel R. Pries:** We face a set of interconnected global health challenges that no country can solve alone. Pandemic preparedness and climate resilience are urgent priorities – extreme weather events and environmental change already contribute to millions of deaths each year. Antimicrobial resistance already causes over a million deaths per year globally and threatens to undermine modern medicine. At the same time, noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases are responsible for more than 70% of global deaths. And the rapid digital transformation, including the rise of AI and the spread of misinformation, requires coordinated responses to safeguard trust in science and health systems.

The World Health Summit provides the platform to address these challenges in a collaborative way – by uniting science, politics, civil society, and the private sector to co-create innovative solutions that strengthen societies worldwide.

### **Why does the World Health Summit emphasize investments in health?**

**Carsten Schicker:** “The COVID-19 pandemic made it clear to each and every one: Direct and indirect health investment and actions are not a cost or just a charitable cause, but a strategic investment. Investments in health have a catalytic effect as they reduce future costs, make societies more resilient, and strengthen long-term growth. Solutions for health also have a positive impact on challenges outside the traditional health sector such as climate, security, and economy.

The World Health Summit gives leaders and changemakers from different fields the platform to contribute and pave the way for progress. It puts global health in focus across sectors and regions to assure that health is given the priority it deserves.”

### **How does the World Health Summit drive innovative solutions for health?**

**Axel R. Pries:** “In an increasingly complex and fragmenting world, marked by the rise of AI and the spread of misinformation, science and robust evidence are essential pillars across all spheres of life. The World Health Summit provides a platform for scientists, policymakers, the private sector, and civil society to co-create solutions grounded in evidence.

Backed by Charité University Hospital and the scientific expertise of the WHS Academic Alliance, the WHS promotes the translation of scientific insights into policy. By working closely with leading universities globally, we guarantee the scientific integrity of our work and ensure that innovation is rooted in the latest evidence.”