

## WHS News 09/2025: Setting the stage for the WHS 2025

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Antwort an: newsletter@worldhealthsummit.org

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WORLD  
HEALTH  
SUMMIT

WHS News

NEWSLETTER 09/2025:

# Setting the stage for the WHS 2025

Dear World Health Summit Community,  
The Fourth High-Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health concluded last week – but without the adoption of the long-negotiated political declaration. Despite broad international support, the declaration was blocked when the United States vetoed its adoption by consensus, requiring the draft to be put to a formal member state vote. This outcome starkly highlights once again the fragmentation and crisis of multilateralism at a moment when global cooperation is urgently needed.

Under the leitmotif 'Taking responsibility for health in a fragmenting world', the World Health Summit 2025 will be exactly the right platform to confront the pressing question: How can we improve our joint work for better health across borders and divisions in time where support for multilateral processes is dwindling? NCDs and mental health will remain central for our debates, but the conversation must go further: towards laying the foundations for a new global health architecture that is resilient, fair, inclusive, and truly fit for the challenges of our time.

It is the responsibility of all of us, from all sectors and all regions to contribute. I invite you to bring your ideas, your energy, and your commitment to the World Health Summit 2025 and join us on stage, in panels, and throughout every conversation.

Stay safe, stay healthy  
Axel R. Pries  
President  
World Health Summit

[Register now](#)



## In this Newsletter:

Meet the speakers of keynote session 5  
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## Meet the speakers of keynote session 5

**WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT**

**Women's Health – Global Wealth:  
Catalyzing Returns on Bold Investments**

<b>Nigina Muntean</b> UNFPA Chief of Innovation & Transformation Moderator	<b>Kriti Sanon</b> UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador for Gender Equality, Actor, Producer & Entrepreneur	<b>Diene Keita</b> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director	<b>Ru Cheng</b> Gates Foundation Women's Health Innovations Director	<b>Mary Muthoni Muriuki</b> Public Health and Professional Standards Principal Secretary
<b>Felicitas Riedl</b> European Investment Bank Director for Innovation and Competitiveness	<b>Hiroyuki Okuzawa</b> Daiichi Sankyo President & CEO	<b>Bärbel Kofler</b> Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development Parliamentary State Secretary Germany	<b>Ebere Okereke</b> Mohammed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity Chief Program Officer	<b>David Whineray</b> Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office Director of Global Health

Investing in women's health is one of the most effective ways to drive global progress. It strengthens health systems, boosts economies, and advances equity. Yet despite recent gains, global funding for sexual and reproductive health research and development nearly doubled between 2018 and 2023, but less than 1% of investment is directed toward female-specific conditions beyond oncology. In this keynote session, **Women's Health – Global Wealth: Catalyzing Returns on Bold Investments**, co-hosted by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), leaders from government, multilateral organizations, philanthropy, and the private sector will explore how bold investments and innovative financing can break this cycle and unlock transformative returns for women and societies worldwide.

[Find out more](#)



## The WHS 2025 Patrons

WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT | OCTOBER 12–14, 2025 BERLIN, GERMANY & DIGITAL

# The Patrons of WHS 2025

**Friedrich Merz**  
Federal Chancellor  
Germany

**Emmanuel Macron**  
President  
French Republic

**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
Director-General  
World Health Organization

**#WHS2025**

We are honored to welcome the **Patrons of the World Health Summit 2025**:

- Friedrich Merz, Federal Chancellor of Germany
- Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)

Their support reflects the global importance of the World Health Summit as a leading platform for dialogue and action on health. In a time of rising fragmentation and uncertainty, their shared commitment highlights the urgency of this year's leitmotif: Taking Responsibility for Health in a Fragmenting World.

Read the welcoming message of Chancellor Merz



## Global Health Matters Podcast — Live at #WHS2025

For the first time, the World Health Summit will host a podcast live production. The Global Health Matters podcast is going live at the WHS 2025. This special episode will explore how to bridge the knowledge divide in

in collaboration with

**LAUNCHING SEASON 5 AT THE WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT IN BERLIN 2025!**

**GLOBAL HEALTH MATTERS PODCAST LIVE: BRIDGING THE KNOWLEDGE DIVIDE**

Join us *live* in Berlin!  
Hub 2, Oct. 12, 2025, CEST: 12:45 – 13:45 (GHL 02b)

Live Stream:  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/rxMSku0r7IY>

Or find it on our website!  
<https://tdr.who.int/global-health-matters-podcast>

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global health. You will hear directly from Monica Bharel, clinical lead of public sector at Google, and Joy Phumaphi, executive secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance. Join live in Berlin or tune in online for an engaging conversation.

Find out more



## Explore the #WHS2025 Side Meetings

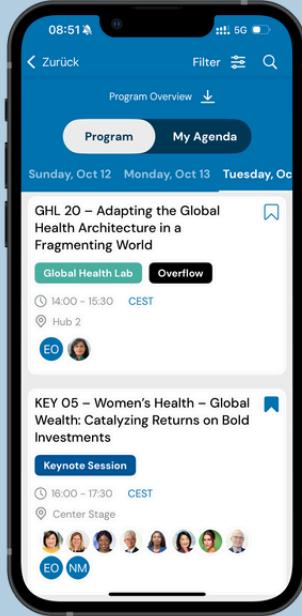


Alongside the #WHS 2025, a diverse range of side meetings, launches, and partner sessions will take place. The side meetings will offer unique opportunities to collaborate across sectors and explore bold solutions for global health priorities.

WHS 2025 Side Meetings



## Get the WHS 2025 App



Stay connected throughout the World Health Summit with the new WHS 2025 app. Designed for easier access to the program, speakers, and venue details, the app helps you navigate the WHS 2025 in real time. You can even create your own agenda to make the most of the WHS days.

Download the WHS 2025 App



## A tree for every WHS 2025 participant

Sustainability remains a cornerstone of the WHS 2025. This year, we are proud to continue our impactful partnership with [Tree Adoption Uganda](#), planting one tree for every registered participant. These trees are planted at health facilities in Uganda, where local community health workers are also trained on the effects of climate change on health.



Learn more about our sustainability initiatives



## Media Partners



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**Economist Impact** brings together the full expertise of The Economist Group to support progress across sectors. By blending policy research with strategic communication, it engages leaders on the complex challenges of our time. With a strong focus on health, sustainability, and trade and geopolitics, Economist Impact creates platforms for informed dialogue.



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## TAGESSPIEGEL

The **Tagesspiegel** is number one in Berlin in terms of circulation and journalistic significance, both in print and digitally. It is one of the most cited newspapers in Germany and reaches more political decision-makers in the capital than all national subscription newspapers combined. Tagesspiegel belongs to Dieter von Holtzbrinck's DvH Medien GmbH.



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