



WHS News

NEWSLETTER 02/2026:

Health, Security, and Resilience: Continuing the Dialogue in Nairobi

Dear World Health Summit Community,

The recent discussions at the Munich Security Conference highlighted a growing recognition that resilient health systems are a fundamental pillar of stability, peace, and global security. In today's armed conflicts, health infrastructure and personnel are increasingly under threat. When health systems collapse, societal resilience weakens, humanitarian crises deepen, and local disruptions risk escalating into broader regional and global challenges. These developments were underlined by the World Health Summit side event "**Health Under Fire: Health Systems on the Frontline of Security**" in Munich, where health, humanitarian, and defense leaders conveyed a clear message: health security is a cornerstone of human and national security.

A central aspect of strengthening health security is secure health coverage, which requires sustainable access to medicines and health technology for all regions and countries. This was highlighted at the 39th Summit of the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, where the AU Champion on Local Manufacturing, Kenya's President William Ruto, together with the Director General of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Jean Kaseya, promoted an Extraordinary AU Summit on African Health Products Manufacturing to be held in Nairobi. The summit will take place in close relation to the upcoming **WHS Regional Meeting 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya, on April 27–29**.

Under the overarching theme "**Reimagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence**," the 2026 WHS Regional Meeting will be a prime platform for decision-makers, scientists and practitioners to explore how regional leadership, innovation, and evolving global dynamics can shape more resilient health systems.

I warmly invite you to join all of us in Nairobi and contribute to this important exchange as we continue working together toward a healthier, more equitable, and more secure future for all.

Stay safe, stay healthy

Axel R. Pries
President, World Health Summit

In this Newsletter:

- [Register Now - WHS Regional Meeting 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya](#)
- [MSC Side Event - Health Under Fire: Health Systems on the Frontline of Security](#)
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WHS Regional Meeting 2026 Nairobi, Kenya

Reimagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence



The WHS Regional Meeting 2026 will be held from April 27–29 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON). Leaders, innovators, and changemakers will gather to explore solutions that strengthen Africa's health systems and advance global health progress.

[Register Now](#)



WHS Side Event at the Munich Security Conference 2026

Health Under Fire: Health Systems on the Frontline of Security



This official WHS side event at the Munich Security Conference brought together leaders from health, security, defense, diplomacy, and humanitarian action to strengthen cooperation and foster the shared understanding that resilient healthcare systems are indispensable to human security, peacebuilding, and international stability.

[Explore the Outcomes](#)



WHS Perspectives | Commentary by Dr. Seth Berkley
 Without a comprehensive approach and investments in global health, the goal of “global security” will always be elusive

True global security depends on health. With pandemic risks rising and global health funding falling, Dr. Seth Berkley warns in his WHS Perspectives commentary that neglecting preparedness puts everyone at risk. WHS Perspectives is our new commentary series on pressing global health topics, with more perspectives coming soon.



[Read the Commentary](#)



News from the WHS Academic Alliance
Academic Responsibility in a Fragmenting World

Beyond the Degree
 Redefining Academia as a Catalyst for Social Good

Speakers: Dr. Sabine Renner, Li Guo, Dr. M. S. Venkatesh, Dr. Jit Jadhav, Dr. Carlo Kasbar, Prof. Adrian Hyler, Dr. Elizabeth Hickey, Moderator Dr. Charin Varghese

This high-level symposium on “Academic Responsibility in a Fragmenting World”, co-hosted by the World Health Summit and the Manipal Academy for Higher Education (MAHE), marked the kickoff of the WHS Academic Alliance and the Lancet Commission on Academic Responsibility.

[View Event Details](#)

New Working Group: Oral Health and General Health

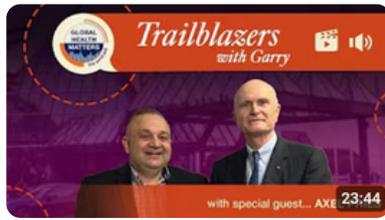
The Working Group brings together more than 30 experts from 12 WHS Academic Alliance member institutions around the world. With Sapienza University of Rome serving as coordinator, the group focuses on strengthening the link between oral health and overall health, as well as advancing scalable strategies, education, and actionable policies that strengthen prevention, improve outcomes, and support sustainable change through oral care.

[Discover the Initiative](#)



Global Health Matters Podcast

Trailblazers with Garry: A conversation with Axel Pries



Axel R. Pries, President of the WHS, joined Garry Aslanyan on the Global Health Matters podcast series *Trailblazers with Garry* for an in-depth conversation on today's evolving global health landscape.

[Watch the Episode](#)



Session Highlights

Preparing for Future Pandemics



Preparing for Future Pandemics

[Watch Now](#)

Driving Collective Responsibility and Action for Health Emergencies



The World Together for Health Emergencies

[Watch Now](#)

Malaria and Global Health Security



Malaria and Global Health Security

[Watch Now](#)



Save the Dates Coming Up Next



WHS Regional Meeting 2026
April 27–29 Nairobi, Kenya

[Explore & Sign Up](#)



World Health Summit 2026
October 11–13 Berlin, Germany

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