Speaker Biographies*

*Biographies are listed in alphabetical order

Dr. Normy Wieslawa De Pawlikowski Amiel, MD, FACS, Director General, International Technical Cooperation Office, Ministry of Health, Peru

Dr. De Pawlikowski received her training at the Peruvian Children’s National Health Institute, became a staff member there, founded one of the first microsurgery units in the country, and now has more than 25 years of experience in the field of pediatric microsurgery with a special focus on the management of brachial plexus birth injury, peripheral nerve injuries, and complex pediatric reconstruction. She is a past president of the Peruvian Society of Plastic Surgery, a member of multiple international scientific societies, and chair and host of several international symposiums, author of scientific articles published through peer review and of several chapters in books of her specialty.

H.E. Mrs. Anne-Claire Amprou, French Ambassador for Global Health

Anne-Claire Amprou is the French Ambassador for Global Health and, since April 2022, the French negotiator of the international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. After starting her career as a hospital director, she joined the Inspectorate-General of Social Affairs. She was a member of the Ebola Task Force and then Deputy Director General for Health at the French Ministry of Solidarity and Health. Before coordinating the French response to the COVID-19 crisis in 2021, she was Chief General Manager of Uniscience, a cultural and scientific institute.

Dr. Bruce Aylward, Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage, Life Course, World Health Organization

Dr. Aylward has 30 years of experience with WHO, working at all three levels of the Organization and serving in a range of leadership positions including Director of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Partnership, Assistant Director-General of the WHO Polio and Emergencies Cluster, Executive Director of the WHO Emergencies Programme, and Deputy Director-General for the West Africa Ebola Response. He also served as the Special Representative of the Director-General to the United Nations Emergency Ebola Response (UNMEER) from September 2014 to July 2016. In 2016, Dr. Aylward led the establishment of the new WHO Emergencies Programme, then managed the reform of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) before returning to WHO in late 2017 to lead the design and implementation of WHO’s ongoing Transformation Agenda. Dr. Aylward is a physician and epidemiologist with a Medical Doctorate from the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, a diploma from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom, and a master’s degree in public health from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in the United States of America.

Adriana Velazquez Berumen, Team Lead on Medical Devices and In vitro Diagnostics, World Health Organization

Adriana Velazquez Berumen is a passionate biomedical engineer with 30 years of experience—striving for access to medical devices to all population in need. She has led the medical devices unit at WHO for the last 14 years. Under her tenure, the medical devices technical series publications, including development of medical device policies, selection, and procurement of medical devices, has been published. She is responsible for the WHO Model List of Priority Medical Devices, led the first WHO Essential In vitro Diagnostics List, and coordinated the Compendium of Innovative Technologies for Low-resource Settings. As lead engineer for medical devices, Velazquez Berumen has a global view of medical technologies and how they need to be appropriate and affordable. She founded the WHO’s Global Forum on Medical Devices, which convenes health ministers and biomedical engineers from around the world to discuss best practices. In 2017, the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation honored her with its...
Humanitarian Award for her efforts to promote biomedical engineering and broad access to quality health care. Prior to WHO, she was the founder of CENETEC, a health technology center, in the Mexican Ministry of Health and promoted biomedical engineering departments in private and public hospitals and in Ministries of Health in Mexico, Latin America, and now globally. She has a bachelor’s degree in biomedical engineering from Mexico and a master’s in clinical engineering from Case Western Reserve University in USA.

S.E. M. Jérôme Bonnafont, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland

Jérôme Bonnafont took up his post as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations Office in Geneva and to the international organizations in Switzerland on September 1, 2021. He was previously in charge of a mission on human resources policy at the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs after having been Director of the North Africa and Middle East Department (2015-2019), Ambassador to Madrid (2012-2015) and to New Delhi (2007-2011). The ambassador served as advisor for global affairs and then spokesman for the Elysée Palace from 1997 to 2007 under President Jacques Chirac, chief of staff to Alain Juppé when he was Minister of Foreign Affairs (2011-2012), and advisor to Prime Minister Edouard Philippe in 2020. A graduate of the "Denis Diderot" class of the Ecole Nationale d’Administration (1986), Jérôme Bonnafont also served in New Delhi (1986-1989), Kuwait (1991-1993), and at the French Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York (1993-1995).

Dr. Janet V. Diaz, Lead, Clinical Management and Operations Unit, Country Readiness Strengthening, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization

Dr. Janet Victoria Diaz is a specialist in intensive care and pulmonary medicine with rich expertise in clinical medicine, medical education, and quality improvement. She is committed to promoting the delivery of high-quality, safe, and scalable clinical care to patients around the world during health emergencies. For the past five years, she has been working at the WHO as Lead for Clinical Management and Operations Unit in the Health Emergencies Programme. In this role, she is leading the clinical management readiness and response to high-threat, infectious disease pathogens and hazards, as well as leading the oxygen scale up initiative. She strives to bring together global clinical and technical experts into a rapid, resilient, and quality-focused outbreak response. The unit focuses on developing evidence-based clinical guidance and tools, accelerating clinical research and innovation, hosts the WHO Clinical platform, and provides clinical operational support during emergencies to member states. She worked as a pulmonary critical care specialist for over 20 years in the San Francisco Bay Area, California, USA. Her work included being an intensivist at California Pacific Medical Center and Contra Costa Regional Hospital, Director of the medical ICU at San Francisco General Hospital, and Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of California San Francisco. She completed her internal medicine residency and pulmonary and critical care fellowship at the University of California San Francisco in 2006.

Dr. Philippe Duneton, Executive Director, Unitaid

A French national, Dr. Duneton has more than 25 years’ experience in HIV/AIDS, infectious and tropical diseases, and public health. Philippe has been at Unitaid since its creation in 2006. As Executive Director, he has led Unitaid’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, playing a vital role as co-lead of the therapeutics arm of the Access to COVID Tools Accelerator (ACT-A). Previously, he was a practicing doctor at Hospital “La Pitié Salpêtrière” in Paris (Infectious Diseases Department) and was twice advisor to the French Ministry of Health under Minister Bernard Kouchner. He was head of the Mission against HIV/AIDS and harm reduction for l’Assistance publique – Hôpitaux de Paris and led the French regulatory agency for medicines and health products. He also chaired the Board of the European Medicines Agency. Philippe holds a master’s degree in public health and is a doctor.

Dr. Sarah England, Senior Advisor, Global Oxygen Alliance

Sarah is an Oxford educated medical scientist with a master’s degree in business administration whose most notable achievement was the design of the Gavi Fund—leading to the biggest ever known donation at that time by the new Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. After working on vaccine finance for WHO, she moved to the Stop TB Partnership where she was a team leader and acting Executive Secretary. Building on her background in partnership-building and lung health, she led WHO's work in China on the new Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use. Wins there included the smoke-free 2008 Olympics, smoke-free hospitals, and the publication of the first official acknowledgement by the Chinese Government of tobacco harm, despite the government owning what was then the world’s biggest tobacco company. She was then hired by Bloomberg Philanthropies as part of a five-member team running Mike Bloomberg's global health program. Following a return to Europe, she rejoined WHO, playing a lead role in the design, proposal, and implementation of the Contingency Fund for Emergencies and other pandemic finance mechanisms in the wake of the West African Ebola epidemic. She led the work on financial issues and advocacy for ACT-A during the COVID-19 emergency and is now pen holder for WHO’s work on pandemic surge financing for the G20 Joint Finance Health Task Force. She has lived and worked in nine countries on three continents including serving in four WHO country offices.

Dr. Marcos Espinal, Assistant Director, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

Dr. Marcos A. Espinal has over 30 years of experience in global health. He is the current Assistant Director at the Pan American Health Organization, and before being appointed as Assistant Director, Dr. Espinal served as the Director of the Department of Communicable Diseases and Environmental Determinants of Health for 12 years. His previous experience includes positions in the Ministry of Health of the Dominican Republic and the National Center for Research on Maternal and Child Health; the New York City Public Health Department; and the WHO where he worked for 13 years in distinct roles, including as Executive Director of the Global Partnership to Stop TB. Dr. Espinal has published more than 200 peer-reviewed scientific publications on communicable diseases and authored numerous book chapters. He is a recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Scientific Prize of the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, the Walter and Elise A. Hass International Award by the University of California (UC), Berkeley
Kristoffer Gandrup-Marino, Chief of Innovation, Supply Division, UNICEF

Kristoffer joined UNICEF in 2013 as Chief of Innovation for UNICEF Supply Division and has since then worked to build the area of Product Innovation. Under his leadership, Product Innovation has evolved to become recognized for having created a focused strategy that enables strong evidence-based innovation, based on rigorous processes respecting UNICEF's procurement framework. Kristoffer Gandrup-Marino has a master’s in organizational sociology and Business Strategy and has done numerous shorter study programs on innovation and entrepreneurship in Silicon Valley, Singapore, and Denmark. He has spent over 10 years working with innovation, specializing in creating structures and strategies that enable ideas to be turned into products that have impact. Prior to joining UNICEF, he worked as a consultant within the space of business development and venture finance, as part of the management team in a medium sized technology company. And right before joining UNICEF, he was a respected innovation manager for a leading Danish industrial biotech company.

Dr. Atul Gawande, Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

Dr. Atul Gawande is a renowned surgeon, writer, and public health leader. Prior to joining the Biden-Harris Administration, he was a practicing general and endocrine surgeon at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and a professor at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He was founder and chair of Anadine Labs, a joint center for health systems innovation, and of Lifebox, a nonprofit making surgery safer globally. He also co-founded CIC Health, a public-benefit corporation supporting pandemic response operations nationally and served as a member of the Biden transition COVID-19 Advisory Board. From 2018 to 2020, he was CEO of Haven—the Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway, and JPMorgan Chase healthcare venture. In addition, Dr. Gawande was a longtime staff writer for The New Yorker magazine and has written four New York Times best-selling books: Complications, Better, The Checklist Manifesto, and Being Mortal. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the winner of two National Magazine Awards, AcademyHealth’s Impact Award for highest research impact on healthcare, a MacArthur Fellowship, and the Lewis Thomas Award for writing about science.

Dr. Nabeel Goheer, Chief of Asia, Middle East, and Europe Region, PATH

Nabeel Goheer, PhD, is PATH’s Chief of Asia, Middle East, and Europe (AMEE) Region. He is responsible for providing strategic leadership and guidance and overseeing program activities in the regional hubs in South Asia, South-East Asia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, China, and Western Europe, as well as PATH’s other projects in the region. He also develops and executes strategies to expand and grow the AMEE portfolio into new regions, including the Middle East and additional countries in Asia. Dr. Goheer is a seasoned leader with nearly 25 years of professional experience. Before joining PATH, he spent the last ten years assisting and representing the Commonwealth Secretary-General while providing leadership in the areas of strategy, governance, partnerships, portfolio, evaluation, technology, innovation, and digitalization. Before joining the Commonwealth, he worked with the International Labor Organization (ILO) at the United Nations, World Bank, United Nations Development Program, USAID, and the Government of Pakistan. Dr. Goheer holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore, Pakistan, a Master of Arts in International Development from the International University of Japan, a Master of Philosophy in Technology Policy from Cambridge and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a PhD in Management from the University of Cambridge. He also holds a Certificate in Macroeconomic Policy and Management from Harvard.

Dabsou Guidaoussou, Secretary General, Ministry of Public Health and Prevention, Chad

Dabsou Guidaoussou is a Chad national who has served as a consultant on several national epidemic disease and surveillance studies. These include three assessments of emergency obstetric and neonatal care needs, evaluations of programs and projects, and the determination of alert thresholds and malaria epidemics in the Sahelian region of Chad, as well as the development of multiple national strategic program plans. Deeply connected to key stakeholders in the country for nearly a decade, Dabsou has worked with a range of multilateral donors including the World Health Organisation, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, UNAIDS, Expertise-France, Gavi, and the Global Fund, conducting evaluations and assessments of national health sector capacity in Chad. He previously served as the Director of Statistics and Health Information for the Chadian Government’s Ministry of Public Health and Prevention as well as the Country Coordinator for DAI providing technical expertise and coordinating their work on the ground in Chad. Dabsou currently serves as the Secretary General for the Ministry of Public Health and Prevention.

Dr. Dambar Khadka, Medical Superintendent of Provincial Hospital Surkhet, Nepal

Of Nepalese descent, Dr. Khadka has been the hospital director of Province Hospital Surkhet in Nepal since 2018. From 2015 to 2018, he worked as the acting Chief Medical Superintendent at Mid Western Regional Hospital Surkhet. He holds a Doctor of Medicine in General Practice (MDGP) from the National Academy of Medical Sciences in Kathmandu and received his Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery (BMMS) in Russia.
Robert Matiru, Director, Programme Division, Unitaid and Co-chair of the Global Oxygen Alliance

With over 20 years of experience in international development, Robert currently leads the Programme Division at Unitaid as Director, and is responsible for planning, developing, and implementing a complex portfolio of health product innovation investments valued at US$1.3 billion. Before joining Unitaid in 2012, he served as Head of Operations and Vaccine Deployment for the WHO’s H1N1 Pandemic Response and as Chief Operating Officer of the Global TB Drug Facility. Robert is a dual Kenyan-Canadian citizen and holds a bachelor’s degree in international relations, a master’s degree in international development, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Leadership.

Maurine Murenga, Executive Director, Lean on Me Foundation

Maurine Murenga is a passionate advocate for the health, development, and human rights of women and children. With a background on Program Management and Community Development, she is a two-time award winner, namely “The Unsung Hero Award” from the U.S. Embassy in Kenya and an award from East Africa Community Service Award for her work with women and children. Maurine’s passion for advocacy is driven by her lived experience, and the inequality and vulnerability that young women and adolescent girls experience in her community. In response to these challenges, she founded the Lean on Me Foundation—an organization that supports access to health services for young women and children. Maurine is currently the coordinator of TB Women Global as well as a board member of Unitaid, Friend of the Fight U.S., and EGPFAF Kenya. She is a former board member of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and a member of WHO’s Global Accelerator for Pediatric Formulations Advisory and Union Working Group Gender Equity in TB. In Kenya, Maurine is a member of the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism and Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV Committee of Experts.

Leslie Norton, Ambassador of Canada to the UN office in Geneva

Leslie E. Norton was appointed Canada’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva and to the Conference on Disarmament in August 2019. Prior to this, she was Assistant Deputy Minister of the Sub-Saharan Africa Branch from 2016 to 2019. Ms. Norton has also held several senior Canadian government roles, including: Director General of the Southern and Eastern Africa Bureau (2015-2016); Director General of the International Humanitarian Assistance Bureau (2009-2015); Director of the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Response Group (2008-2009); and Director of the International Humanitarian Assistance and Food Aid Unit (2006-2008). Ms. Norton obtained a diploma in Civilization and Literature at the Aix-Marseille III University, a Bachelor of Arts Honors degree in English and French Literature at the University of Western Ontario and a master's degree in international relations at Laval University.

Dr. Charles Olaro, Director of Curative Services, Ministry of Health, Uganda

Dr. Olaro Charles has been the Director of Curative Services at the Ministry of Health, Uganda since April 2017. He is the Chair FP2030 Country Donor Focal Points and Member of FP2030 Global Board. He holds MBChB and MMed Surgery from Makerere University. He also holds Master of Science in Health Services Management from Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi and Master of Business Administration from Eastern and Southern African Management Institute. Dr. Olaro has over 29 years of experience working in the public and private sector, working within health services as Medical Officer, Medical Officer Special Grade Surgery, Consultant – Surgery, Medical Superintendent, Senior Consultant – Surgery, and Hospital Director. He was also an Accounting Officer of Arua Regional Referral Hospital and Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital for 17 years. He is an Honorary Fellow of the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) and recipient of 2014 International Visitors Leadership Program on Global Women’s Health Issues under the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. He is a Chartered Member of Rotary Club of Sonde and sits on several boards (Uganda Cancer Institute, 2018 to date; Mulago Specialized Women and Neonatal National Referral Hospital 2021; and the Steering Committee for East African Consortium for Clinical Research).

Dr. Michael Ryan, Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization

As Executive Director of WHO’s Health Emergencies Programme, Dr. Ryan leads WHO’s response to disease outbreaks, humanitarian crises, and other public health emergencies. At the forefront of managing acute risks to global health for nearly 25 years, Dr. Ryan first joined WHO in 1996, within a newly established unit responding to emerging and epidemic disease threats. He has worked in conflict-affected countries across the world and has led WHO’s operational responses to high impact events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the SARS epidemic. In addition, he served as a Senior Advisor on Polio Eradication for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (2013-2017), deploying to countries in the Middle East. Dr. Ryan is a founding member of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), which has aided the response to hundreds of disease outbreaks around the world. Dr. Ryan completed his medical training at the National University of Ireland, Galway, has a Master’s in Public Health from University College, Dublin, Ireland, and undertook specialist training in communicable disease control at the Health Protection Agency in London, United Kingdom, and the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training.
Lisa Smith, Director, Access to Medical Devices Portfolio, PATH
Lisa Smith is the Director of PATH’s Access to Medical Devices Portfolio. In this role, Lisa provides analytical and strategic leadership for PATH programs and partner organizations that are working to develop healthy markets for innovative health care products in low- and middle-income countries. Prior to joining PATH, Lisa helped develop scalable and sustainable models for global health delivery and supply chains with the William Davidson Institute (WDI) at the University of Michigan. During her tenure at WDI, she led technical work in global market dynamics for healthcare with specific expertise in the therapeutic product markets for tuberculosis, malaria, and diarrheal disease. She led a project to systematically collect, synthesize, and analyze market information in order to make recommendations for improvements to active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) markets for malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS medicines. This work required extensive engagement with industry to assess the sufficiency of available API supply in terms of total capacity, quality, and affordability. Lisa holds an MPH with a Certificate in Global Health and an MSW in Policy and Evaluation from the University of Michigan. She has a BA in Psychology, Sociology, and German from Hope College.

Dr. Raji Tajudeen, Head of Division of Public Health Institutes and Research, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
Dr. Raji Tajudeen is a medical doctor with postgraduate qualifications in pediatrics and public health. He is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians and African Public Health Leaders Fellow of the Chatham House Royal Institute of International Affairs, UK. He has years of senior-level experience in child health, health system management, health system strengthening, health diplomacy, maternal and child health, and health in humanitarian Emergencies. He has experience working in different settings in the developing world. He is currently the Head of Public Health Institutes and Research at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He coordinates the establishment and strengthening of National Public Health Institutes across the 55 African Union Member States, coordinates the Africa CDC Health Workforce Development portfolio, oversees the public health research agenda of the Africa CDC, and headed the healthcare preparedness and countermeasures section of the Africa CDC COVID-19 response.

Marijke Wijnroks, Head of Strategic Investment and Impact Division, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
Marijke Wijnroks is Head of the Strategic Investment and Impact Division at the Global Fund, overseeing four departments: Access to Funding, Health Financing, Technical Advice and Partnerships, and Community, Rights, and Gender. She was Chief of Staff at the Global Fund between 2013 and 2022 and served for a period of nine months as Interim Executive Director in 2017. Marijke is a medical doctor who worked in South Sudan, Uganda, Bangladesh, and El Salvador for nongovernmental organizations and at the United Nations. Before joining the Global Fund, Marijke was Ambassador for HIV/AIDS and Deputy Director for Social Development in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands, overseeing policy development on HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender, education, and civil society.

* In some cases, bios were identified from online sources.