

# **International Politics and Diplomacy for Health**

## **EXECUTIVE PROGRAM**

### **2025**



# Contents

Background	3
Participants	4
Methodology and program structure	5
Certificate	9
Program timeline	9
On-line workshops	10
Masterclass	11
Fellows and faculty	17
Program leadership	34



# Background

Health diplomacy has been the cornerstone of some of the most remarkable global health achievements in the past four decades. From the eradication of Smallpox to the mobilization of funds for developing treatments for HIV, TB, and Malaria, and the significant reduction in child and maternal mortality, this has only been possible through the collective efforts of actors successfully navigating the political landscape for health.

Health is not just a technical or medical issue, but a critical element of foreign policy, security, climate, international development cooperation and business. Health is prominent on the agendas of regional organizations such as the African Union, the European Union and ASEAN as well as economic blocs such as the G7 and G20. And several countries have even established dedicated ambassadorships (or equivalent) for global health.

Across the spectrum of stakeholders involved in global health there is:

- A growing recognition that improving health outcomes requires more than just evidence and technical expertise – it demands a deeper understanding of the political economy of health.
- A renewed appetite to invest in health diplomacy, to strengthen competencies and capacity and to learn from each other.

However, a gap exists in **integrating governance, diplomacy, development, and business insights with political science and public health disciplines**, and learning opportunities are limited.

Addressing this need, the Stockholm School of Economics and Karolinska Institutet have launched The Health Diplomacy Initiative, to equip emerging generations of health leaders with health diplomacy skills, build a network of organisations and individuals committed to the improvement of health, and generate insights about the evolving nature of health diplomacy.

The leading component of the Health Diplomacy Initiative is the annual Executive Program – ‘Politics and Diplomacy for Health’.

The first program was concluded in 2024 and brought together 28 mid-career professionals from 21 countries spanning all regions of the world. Based on the strong interest in the first program and positive evaluation from the program’s Fellows, a 3-year program is now being established, running annually and recruiting 28 participants each year.

Additional components of the Health Diplomacy Initiative are:

- The Health Diplomacy Community – a vibrant and diverse community of practice, linking over 100 Fellows with dozens of organizations and more than 30 academic institutions committed to improving health through diplomacy.
- Dialogues and research – filling knowledge gaps in how diplomacy can contribute to improved health at the regional and global levels.

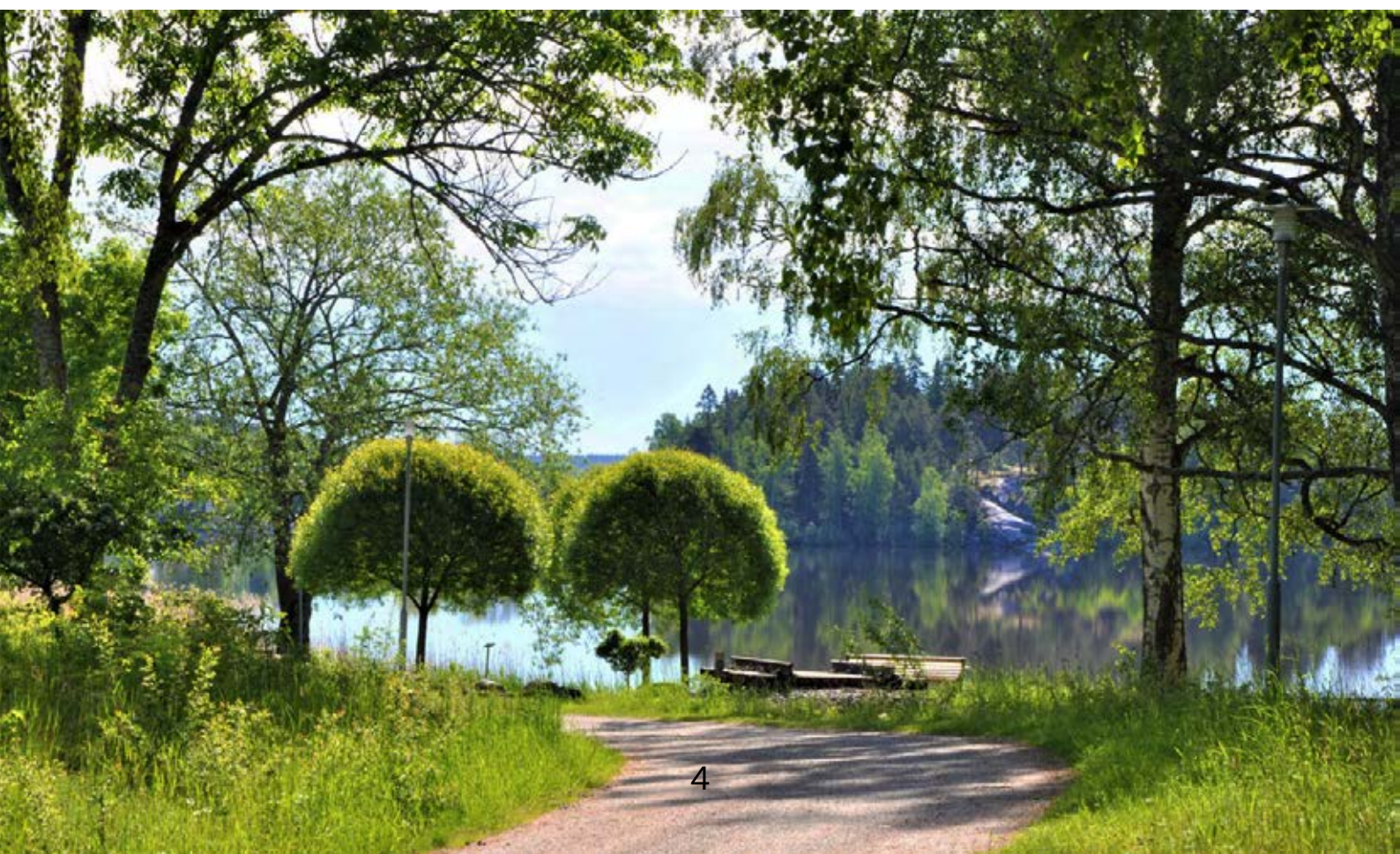


# Participants

The program will enrol up to 28 **mid-career professionals** from all regions of the world and will have a geographically representative and gender-balanced mix of participants from the public and private sectors and civil society.

As an Executive Program we are seeking to attract participants with;

- **Senior relevant and professional working experience** from either public or private sector, civil society and international organisations and foundations.
- **Specific experience from having managed or contributed to political processes** at the regional or global level.
- Proven interest and **commitment to global/regional health improvements**.
- **Excellent knowledge about the international system** of relevance to health.
- **Strong motivation** for how this program will contribute to their continued career development, and ability to meet the required **time commitment**.



## **Our vision and mission**

We have created this Executive Program because we want to see an expanded cadre of health diplomats from across the world able to drive health improvements.

Our mission over the next three years is to equip more than 100 emerging health leaders from the public and private sectors, and civil society, with the skills to effectively navigate in global and regional political settings of importance for health.

## **Methodology and program structure**

The program will comprise 5 online workshops, and a 5-day Masterclass in Sweden.

### **A practitioner-to-practitioner approach**

The program will be built on the sharing of real present or past personal experiences from navigating in regional or global political contexts for health (including storytelling). There will be opportunities to learn from both successes and failures and be inspired by recognized senior leaders as well as from fellow colleagues (peer-to-peer learning). There will be no or very limited traditional teaching.

### **Debates and Scenarios for simulations**

The participants will be given a future scenario, allocated different roles, and asked to prepare for a simulation or a debate during the Masterclass.

Three scenarios will include

- Preparing for the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on NCDs
- Access to the new product X with global health benefits
- G20 statement on Women's Health

Three debates

- Keeping health at the political agenda in an evolving landscape
- Entrepreneurship and Private Sector
- Successful communication – three Hard Talks

### **Learning material – pre-reading**

Participants will be guided by relevant reading material (books and short articles) as well as existing short online video sessions and podcasts.

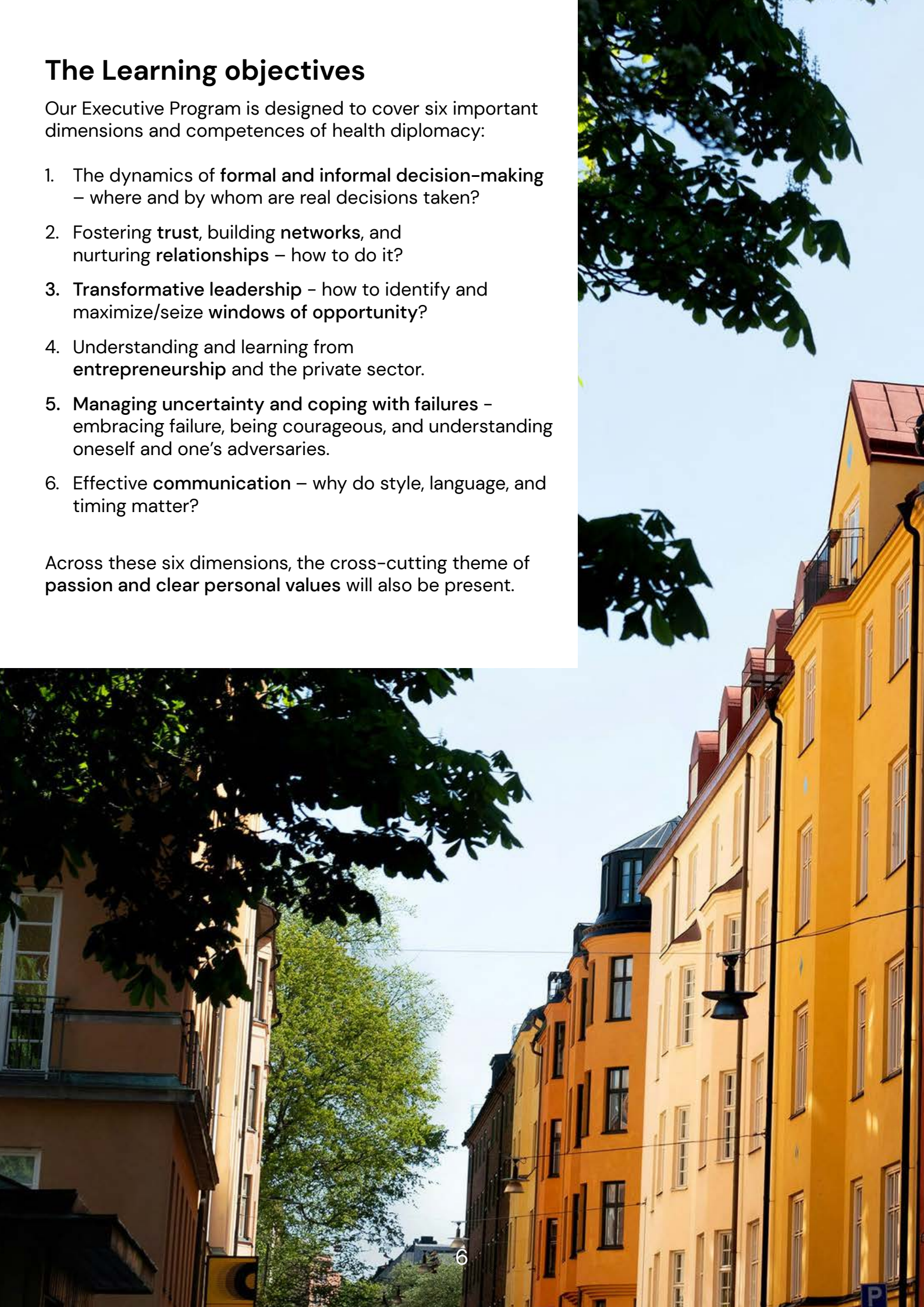


# The Learning objectives

Our Executive Program is designed to cover six important dimensions and competences of health diplomacy:

1. The dynamics of **formal and informal decision-making** – where and by whom are real decisions taken?
2. **Fostering trust, building networks, and nurturing relationships** – how to do it?
3. **Transformative leadership** – how to identify and maximize/seize windows of opportunity?
4. Understanding and learning from **entrepreneurship** and the private sector.
5. **Managing uncertainty and coping with failures** – embracing failure, being courageous, and understanding oneself and one's adversaries.
6. **Effective communication** – why do style, language, and timing matter?

Across these six dimensions, the cross-cutting theme of **passion and clear personal values** will also be present.







## Our approach

We have designed the Executive Program to prioritize experiential learning over traditional teaching methods, focusing on real-world applications that empower future leaders. Our work is grounded in collaboration and exchange, bringing together diverse expertise, perspectives, and experiences.

While our program is informed by the theories that have shaped and explain why the world is as it is today, our focus is on the practical aspects of health diplomacy and considering what might be required for future health leaders to succeed.

## How we do it

We deliver the program around a practitioner-to-practitioner model rather than traditional teaching – bringing some of the most experienced leaders in the global health sphere (faculty) together with the course participants.

The program focuses on unpacking and learning from faculty about political processes and contexts for decision-making for health, at the regional and global levels. It addresses a set of skills and ways of working which we call global health diplomacy.

Through discussion, participants are able to gain personal insights from faculty about both successful and unsuccessful health diplomacy efforts, and what they can learn for the future of health diplomacy.



## Professional network and institutional collaboration

The Fellows will be part of a growing network of colleagues (former Fellows and faculty) – the Health Diplomacy Community. A web platform will be established to support communication and exchange as well as recurrent events and seminars.

The international network of health diplomacy institutions (32 institutions with presently 10 programs specifically relating to health diplomacy) will also constitute an opportunity to access an even larger community of practice.





## Certificate

The program will have the status of an Executive Program and a certificate (intyg) will be provided jointly by Karolinska Institutet and the Stockholm School of Economics. Participants must have participated in at least 4 of the online workshops and the Master Class in its entirety.

## Program timeline

The program will consist of five online sessions and an in-person 5-day Masterclass in Sigtuna, Sweden. Prior to the Masterclass, individual casework preparations will take place. Individual check-ins between Fellows and the program directors will occur throughout the program.

The workshops will take place between April and June 2025 and run for 2 hours each (13:00 – 15:00 CET).

The Masterclass will be in person only and take place close to Stockholm in mid-June and start at Monday lunch and finish Friday lunch (9-13 June 2025).



# On-line workshops

## Introduction 1 – 9 April

13:00 – 13:45 | Welcome and presentation of the program and participants

13:45 – 14:45 | **An introduction to Health Diplomacy and Politics** with Anders Nordström and Gunilla Carlsson

14:45 – 15:00 | Summary and what's next

## Workshop 2 – 23 April

13:00 – 13:15 | Welcome back – a check in

13:15 – 14:30 | **A Global outlook of Health Diplomacy** with Peter Piot

14:30 – 14:50 | Discussion about what we heard

14:50 – 15:00 | Summary and what's next

## Workshop 3 – 14 May

13:00 – 13:15 | Welcome back – a check in

13:15 – 14:30 | **Health Diplomacy from one generation to the next** with Thoraya Obaid

14:30 – 14:50 | Discussion about what we heard

14:50 – 15:00 | Summary and what's next

## Workshop 4 – June/July (TBC)

13:00 – 13:15 | Welcome back – a check in

13:15 – 14:30 | **From NCDs to Vaccines – the dynamic of the political landscape for health** with Sania Nishtar

14:30 – 14:50 | Discussion about what we heard

14:50 – 15:00 | Summary and what's next

## Workshop 5 – June/July (TBC)

13:00 – 13:15 | Welcome back – a check in

13:15 – 14:30 | **Global and Regional Politics for Health** with John Nkengasong (TBC)

14:30 – 14:50 | Discussion about what we heard

14:50 – 15:00 | Summary and what's next



# Masterclass

This first day will explore the intersection of geopolitics and global health and focus on current trends, future scenarios, and how geopolitical and regional factors influence health diplomacy, policies and outcomes.

## **Monday 9th June** **Health and Politics**

### **11:00 – 12:00 | Arrivals**

*Welcome and registration as you arrive in Sigtuna. This is the time for participants to settle in, receive their materials, sign up for 'Group Walk & Talk' session groups, and network informally before the sessions begin.*

### **12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch**

### **13:00 – 14:00 | Introductions**

*Participants will introduce themselves and share their backgrounds and expectations. This session will also cover an overview of the program and objectives, as well as allow participants to establish group norms notes to ensure active participation and a collaborative environment.*

**14:00 – 15:00 | Defining political moments in global health history** with Elhadj As Sy  
*Elhadj As Sy was the Secretary General for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) from. He currently serves as the Kofi Annan Foundation's Chair of the Board. He has recently been appointed Chancellor for the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.*

### **15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee Break**

**15:30 – 16:30 | The geopolitics of today and the future – what does it mean for health?** with Alvaro Bermejo

*Alvaro Bermejo is the Director General for IPPPF. He was previously the Executive Director of the Survive and Thrive portfolio at the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF).*

**16:45 – 17:45 | Navigating in the politics for health** with Helen Evans

*Helen Evans was Deputy CEO at Gavi and Deputy Executive Director at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. She has an honorary appointment as Professor at the Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne.*

### **18:30 – 19:45 | Dinner**

**20:00 – 21:30 | Debate – How to make health the political choice?** with Elhadj As Sy, Helen Evans and Alvaro Bermejo

This day will focus on leadership and how to recognize and leverage critical moments when strategic actions can lead to significant advancements. What makes transformative leadership different?

## **Tuesday 10th June**

### **Leadership and windows of opportunities**

#### **8:30 – 9:00 | Recap of Day 1**

*Summary and reflections on the previous day's sessions, allowing participants to review and prepare for the day's topics.*

#### **9:00 – 10:15 | Leaders who seeks windows of opportunities with Joy Phumaphi**

*Joy Phumaphi is the Executive Secretary African Leaders Malaria Alliance / ex-Vice President Human Development, World Bank / ex-ADG for Family & Community Health, WHO / ex-Minister of Health, Botswana*

#### **10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee Break**

#### **10:45 – 11:30 | Are regional structures the future for global health? with**

**Hanan Al Kuwairi**

*Hanan Al Kuwairi is the former Minister for Health in Qatar and today adviser to the PM for health affairs*

#### **11:30 – 12:30 | Group Walk & Talk**

*Interactive walking sessions with the resource people of the day (in groups previously signed up for) to discuss insights from the morning session while networking informally.*

#### **12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch**

#### **13:30 – 15:00 | Scenario 1 – G20 statement on women's health**

*The upcoming G20 meeting in 3 months' time in China will address a number of issues, one is to agree on a statement on Women's Health, 30 years after the Beijing Conference on Women 1995.*

#### **15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee Break**

#### **15:30 – 17:00 | Leadership, evidence and science for political decision making with**

**Johan Rockström**

*Johan Rockström is Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Professor in Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam.*

#### **18:00 – 19:30 | Dinner**

#### **19:30 – 21:00 | Visit to Sigtuna**

*An evening visit to the historic town of Sigtuna, promoting cultural exchange, relaxation, and informal networking.*



This day will examine the role of the private sector in global health and lessons from entrepreneurial approaches. Guests will share their experiences and perspectives, followed by interactive discussions in groups about how private-sector innovations can be leveraged in health diplomacy to drive impactful change.

## **Wednesday 11th June**

### **Entrepreneurship and private sector**

#### **8:30 – 9:00 | Recap of Day 2**

*Summary and reflections on the previous day's sessions, allowing participants to review and prepare for the day's topics.*

#### **9:00 – 10:15 | Private sector and political leadership for health with Mark Dybul**

*Mark Dybul is Professor at Georgetown University. He was the Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and served as the United States Global AIDS Coordinator leading the implementation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.*

#### **10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee Break**

#### **10:45 – 11:30 | Indigenous Indian Vaccine: The Story of Human Compassion and Cooperation with Balram Bhargav**

*Balram Bhargav is the President of the National Academy of Sciences in India, Non-Executive Director: Cipla (Leading Global Pharmaceutical Company), Strategic Advisor: Serum Institute of India (World's largest Vaccine Manufacturer), Senior Editor: eLife International Science Journal and Governing Board Member: Tata Memorial Centre.*

#### **11:30 – 12:30 | Group Walk & Talk**

*Interactive walking sessions with the resource people of the day (in groups previously signed up for) to discuss insights from the morning session while networking informally.*

#### **12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch**

#### **13:30 – 15:00 | Scenario 2 – Access to the new product X with major global benefits**

#### **15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee Break**

#### **15.30 – 17:00 | Private partners for global health**

#### **18:00 – 19:30 | Dinner**

#### **19:30 – 21:00 | Garden Talk – An Asian outlook with Ren Minghui**

*Ren Minghui is Professor at the School of Public Health and Director of the Institute for Global Health, Peking University. He served as Assistant Director General at WHO for seven years.*

This day will cover the dynamics of decision-making processes, both formal and informal. We will discuss the role of informal networks and tactics used in global health diplomacy, with select fellows sharing relevant experiences to illustrate the practical applications of these tactics, followed by interactive discussions with the resource persons.

## **Thursday 12th June**

### **Formal and informal decision making**

#### **8:30 – 9:00 | Recap of Day 3**

*Summary and reflections on the previous day's sessions, allowing participants to review and prepare for the day's topics.*

#### **9:00 – 10:15 | Who is actually deciding – informal and formal decision making? with Magda Robalo and Ren Minghui**

*Magda Robalo is the President and co-founder of The Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD). She is former Minister of Health in Guinea-Bissau. Ren Minghui is Professor at the School of Public Health, Director Institute for Global Health, Peking University and former Assistant Director General at WHO.*

#### **10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee Break**

#### **10:45 – 11:30 | Tools and strategies for effective diplomacy with Christian Danielsson**

*Christian Danielsson is the State Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs/ex-Swedish EU Ambassador, ex-EC Director General and he will provide practical insights into the diplomatic toolbox and how it can be applied in various regional contexts.*

#### **11:30 – 12:30 | Group Walk & Talk**

*Interactive walking sessions with the resource people of the day (in groups previously signed up for) to discuss insights from the morning session while networking informally.*

#### **12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch**

#### **13:30 – 15:00 | Scenario 3 – The UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on NCDs**

*The 3rd UN High Level Meeting on NCDs will take place in New York in September 2025. A political declaration is being negotiated.*

#### **15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee Break**

#### **15:30 – 17:00 | Looking forward – What Does It Mean for Me?**

*In pairs, participants will have the opportunity to have more in-depth discussions with other fellows on the next steps following the Masterclass and how they would like to move forward on their global health diplomacy journeys and work lives.*

#### **18:00 – 19:30 | Dinner**

#### **19:30 – 21:00 | Garden talk – Taking risks and managing failure with Gunilla Carlsson and Anders Nordström**



This final day will focus on effective communication. When and how to communicate. The role of traditional and social media. How to cope when you have media against you.

## **Friday 13th June**

### **Communication**

#### **8:30 – 9:00 | Recap of Day 4**

*Summary and reflections on the previous day's sessions, allowing participants to review and prepare for the day's topics.*

#### **9:00 – 10:15 | How to effectively communicate – navigating in the evolving global landscape with Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli and Christine McNab**

*Ndidi Nwuneli is the President/CEO of the ONE Campaign with over 25 years of international experience. Ndidi serves on the boards of the Rockefeller Foundation, Stanbic IBTC Group, the Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum, and the Bridgespan Group.*

*Christine McNab is a communication advisor, former Director of Communication at WHO and she worked as a television and radio journalist, producer, and announcer in Canada and covered business, health, social justice.*

#### **10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee Break**

#### **10:45 – 12:00 | Debate – Two Hard Talks on topics to be announced later**

#### **12:00 – 12:45 | Evaluation**

*This session will allow participants to evaluate the masterclass, reflecting on the content, structure, and overall experience. This session aims to gather insights that will inform future iterations of the program.*

*Additionally, it will allow participants to reflect on their personal learnings and the practical applications of the knowledge and skills acquired during the masterclass.*

#### **12:45 – 13:30 | Lunch**

#### **13:30 – 14:30 | Departure**

## Faculty

**Peter Piot**, Professor and former president London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, founding Executive Director of UNAIDS

**Sania Nishtar**, CEO Gavi and former Senator in Pakistan

**Thoraya Obaid**, former Executive Director for UNFPA

**John Nkengasong**, Executive Director, Higher Education, Collaboratives and Special Initiatives Mastercard Foundation

**Elhaj As Sy**, Board chair Kofi Annan Foundation and former Secretary General International Red Cross Federation

**Hanan Al Kuwairi**, former Minister of Health Qatar

**Alvaro Bermejo**, Director General IPPF

**Joy Phumaphi**, Executive Secretary Africa Leaders Malaria Alliance, former Minister of Health Botswana, VP World Bank, WHO ADG

**Johan Rockström**, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

**Balram Bhargav**, President of the National Academy of Sciences in India, Non-Executive Director Cipla and Strategic Advisor Serum Institute of India

**Mark Dybul**, Professor Georgetown University, former ED Global Fund and former Head of PEPFAR

**Ren Minghui**, Professor School of Public Health, Director Institute for Global Health, Peking University. Former Assistant Director General at WHO

**Helen Evans**, Professor University of Melbourne and former deputy Executive Director for both Gavi and the Global Fund

**Christian Danielsson**, State Secretary for EU Affairs/ex-Swedish EU Ambassador, ex-EC Director General

**Magda Robalo**, President and co-founder of The Institute for Global Health and Development, former Minister of Health in Guinea-Bissau

**Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli**, President/CEO the ONE Campaign

**Christine McNab**, Communication advisor and former Director for Communication at WHO



**FELLOWS, FACULTY  
AND PROGRAM LEADERSHIP**

**2025**



## FELLOWS



**Alegnta Gebreyesus Guntie**  
Health focal at the Permanent  
Mission of Ethiopia to the UN  
Office in Geneva

Geneva, Switzerland

**Ms Alegnta Gebreyesus Guntie** is a physician and a health diplomacy professional currently serving at the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the UN Office in Geneva. She is an immediate past coordinator of the Africa group in Geneva, making significant contributions to advancing regional interests through international legal instruments in health and other representations. Prior to her current role, Alegnta held various leadership positions as a policymaker, clinician, educator, and quality improvement lead. Throughout her career, she has been a strong advocate for resilient health systems and their impact, bringing effective leadership, systems thinking, and a focus on sustainability to her work.



**Alex Wade**  
Senior Global Health Advocacy  
and Policy Specialist – MSF

New York, USA

**Mr Alex Wade** is a public health expert with over 18 years of experience in the humanitarian health sector. For nine years, he helped implement MSF's medical programs, overseeing responses in both stable and conflict settings to infectious disease outbreaks, acute malnutrition, displaced populations, and gender-based violence. In 2021, he earned a master's in public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine with distinction. After a year overseeing disaster response programs across Africa with the British Red Cross, Alex returned to MSF as a Senior Global Health Advocacy and Policy Specialist.



**Angela Chang**  
Associate Professor – University of  
Southern Denmark / Danish Centre  
for Health Economics

Denmark

**Dr Angela Y. Chang** is an Associate Professor at the University of Southern Denmark. Her research lies in the areas of global health, health economics, and health metrics. Her work includes measuring burden of disease, improving measures of gender inequality in health, measuring adult mortality inequality, and studying youth climate migration in Uganda. She is a member of the Lancet Commission on Investing in Health and the Danish Expert Group on Global Health. Angela received her master's degree from Johns Hopkins University, doctoral degree from Harvard University, and postdoctoral training at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).



## FELLOWS



**Ann Touneh Dandridge**

Washington, D.C., USA

Senior Global Health Policy Advisor  
Global Health Security and  
Diplomacy Bureau  
U.S. Department of State

**Ms Ann Touneh Dandridge** advances efforts to build the U.S. diplomatic workforce's capacity to elevate global health security as a core component of U.S. national security and foreign policy. The Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy leads engagement to strengthen the global health security architecture and international cooperation, and prepare for, prevent, detect, and respond to infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Dandridge has served for fifteen years in both the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She began her career in community-based non-profit programs serving youth. In any role, she builds trust and leverages the resilience of teams to tackle big challenges.



**Bhavya Durgesh Nandini**

Delhi, India

Coordinator, Adolescents and  
Youth Constituency – PMNCH

**Ms Bhavya Durgesh Nandini** is a passionate advocate and youth leader in adolescent health and well-being, with eight years of experience driving change across diverse geographies. She currently serves as Coordinator of the Adolescents and Youth Constituency at PMNCH, hosted by WHO, amplifying adolescent and youth voices in global health. Bhavya has been working with national and global partners, including youth-led organizations in Asia and Africa to advance adolescent health and well-being nationally and globally. Committed to meaningful youth engagement, gender equality, and advancing young people's rights, she strives to create a future where these values are the norm and not the exception.



**Clélia-Elsa Froguel**

London, UK

Senior Director, Global Policy –  
AstraZeneca

**Ms Clélia-Elsa Froguel** is a Senior Director for Global Policy & Advocacy at AstraZeneca. She is also currently a Global Health lecturer at Sciences Po Paris and serves on the board of a UK Breast Cancer charity. With a background in management consulting and health policy, she started her career at Ernst & Young, working with the UK Government, global health organisations and pharmaceutical companies. She then gained experience in health diplomacy at the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, where she worked on resource mobilisation, health digitalisation and establishing public private partnerships for malaria elimination. She holds dual citizenship from the UK and France; and studied at King's College London & Sciences Po Paris.

## FELLOWS



**Cecilia Wanjala**  
Ag. CEO – Kenya BioVax Institute

Nairobi, Kenya

Dr Cecilia Wanjala is the Acting Chief Executive Officer at Kenya BioVax Institute. She holds an MBA (Strategic Management) with a background training in Pharmacy from the University of Nairobi. She has vast experience in the Health industry, providing policy advisory services in strategy development to improve service delivery. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience in innovation and research output commercialization having established successful start-up commercial enterprises within state corporations. Dr. Wanjala enjoys an extensive network of stakeholders cutting across the public and private sectors in the region and globally. Her major achievement is leading the development of the concept note and pitching the business case for the establishment of local capacity for human vaccine manufacturing in Kenya. She is passionate about sustainable local manufacturing capacity in Africa and has co-authored three chapters on this subject in the book *Cancer Care in Pandemic Times – Building Inclusive Local Health Security in Africa and India*, an open access Palgrave Macmillan publication.



**Eva Turk**  
Secretary – Ministry of Health of the  
Republic of Slovenia

Vienna, Austria

Dr Eva Turk works in Slovenia's Minister's Office, focusing on Health Technology Assessment and health literacy strategy. As a Senior Researcher at the Center for Digital Health and Social Innovation, FH St.Pölten, she specializes in Inclusive Digital Community Health. With expertise in HTA and digital health, she contributes to international health initiatives and serves on the board of HTA International. Eva has taught health policy at universities and founded the SanAstra Foundation to promote health literacy. Her roles in Women in Global Health and other organizations reflect her commitment to health equity. She holds an MBA and a PhD in Health Sciences. Originally from Slovenia, she has studied, lived and worked in Austria, Japan, Finland, Spain, Argentina, Syria and Norway.



**Evie Gray**  
AMR Communications and  
Government Affairs Director – GSK

London, UK

Ms Evie Gray is a government affairs and communications professional, focussed on global public health. She is currently working on antimicrobial resistance at GSK, the biopharmaceutical company, and led the company's engagement at the UN HLM on AMR in 2024. Prior to this, Evie has worked on the introduction of innovative health products, including the world's first malaria vaccine, and partnerships to deliver community health programs, with a focus on infectious diseases, such as malaria, TB, and HIV, as well as the impact of climate change on health.



## FELLOWS



### **Floramae Esapebong-Ray**

US

CFR International Affairs Fellow  
Office of Health Diplomacy and Capacity  
Development, Bureau of Global Health  
Security and Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State

**Dr. Floramae Esapebong-Ray** is a Doctor of Public Health with 15 years' work experience, 13 of which have been in strategic leadership roles in diverse non-profit humanitarian and developmental settings. She is a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow at the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy. She specializes in Global Health Diplomacy and has been instrumental in strengthening the capacity of Foreign Service Officers and US GHD actors through research and practice. She is also an expert on strengthening global health systems, facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement, and leading large-scale projects in diverse humanitarian and developmental settings for improved population health outcomes. Floramae is a Member of the Delta Omega Honorary Society, which recognizes the "merit, dedication, outstanding scholarship, excellence, and devotion of an individual to quality in the field of public health and to protection and advancement of the health of all people."



### **Gabriela Garcia Patiño**

Mexico City, Mexico

Architect of Cooperation  
Americas – IPPF Americas &  
The Caribbean Regional Office

**Ms Gabriela Garcia Patiño** is the Architect of Cooperation Americas of IPPF Americas & The Caribbean, based in Mexico City. She is a public policy analyst and activist on sexual and reproductive rights with 15 years of experience in advocacy, capacity strengthening and accompaniment of civil society organisations. She has technical expertise in public health and women and girl's rights including SRHR, child marriage, and HIV. In her current role, she supports the growth and development of Member Associations and Collaborative Partners and contributes to regional advocacy efforts.

## FELLOWS



**Goran Zangana**  
Treasurer – Health Systems Global

Edinburgh, UK

Dr Goran Zangana is a medical doctor from the Kurdistan region of Iraq, with a background in clinical practice, health policy, and global health. He completed his initial medical training and practice in Iraq, followed by a Fulbright fellowship in the United States, where he earned a master's degree in health policy at Emory University. He later completed a Ph.D. in international public health policy at the University of Edinburgh. Prior to joining the HSG board, Goran served on the governing board of Emerging Voices for Global Health and advised the Fragile and Conflict-Affected States Thematic Working Groups. He is an acting consultant in acute medicine in NHS Scotland, NHS Lothian lead for International Medical Graduates, and serves as NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Champion.



**Guilherme Duarte**  
Executive Director – UNITE  
Parliamentarians Network for  
Global Health

Lisbon, Portugal

Dr Guilherme Duarte is the Executive Director of UNITE, a global network of parliamentarians dedicated to advancing political leadership in global health. With a background in public health, diplomacy, and policymaking, he previously served as Health Counsellor at Portugal's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva (2020-2024), representing the country at WHO, UNITAID, and The Global Fund. He has also held national political roles in the Portuguese Ministry of Health and worked as a WHO consultant. Passionate about health governance and diplomacy, he focuses on strengthening political commitment to global health challenges through evidence-based policies and cross-sector partnerships.



**Homoud Algarni**  
Director of Global Health Department  
– Public Health Agency

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Dr Homoud Algarni is a senior global health expert currently serving as Director of the Global Health Department at the Public Health Authority. He previously held the position of General Supervisor of the International Health Regulations (IHR) Program at the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia and has held various roles related to IHR capacities, including Director of Surveillance Centers at Points of Entry. Dr. Algarni earned his medical degree from King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah and holds a specialization in Family Medicine. He also obtained a Master's degree in Global Public Health from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. His research focuses on global health, IHR, the epidemiology of MERS, and mass gathering preparedness for Hajj.

## FELLOWS



**Isabel Mestres Mesa**

CEO – City Cancer Challenger  
Foundation

Switzerland

**Ms Isabel Mestres Mesa** leads City Cancer Challenge (C/Can), championing city-based efforts for quality and equitable cancer care access. C/Can drives collaborative scalable community-led solutions in the private and public sectors. Passionately advancing public health, Isabel co-founded C/Can and now leads a global team transforming projects in 15 cities into dynamic solutions for cancer care access. A native of Barcelona, she holds an MBA from ESADE Business School and is multilingual.



**Kate Smith**

Acting Director – Australia's  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade

Australia

**Ms Kate Smith** was selected as the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) nominee owing to her extensive experience in global health. This includes positions with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), and over ten years at DFAT. Kate holds a Master of Public Health and has worked in challenging roles representing Australia in various bilateral and multilateral fora, with a particular focus on the Pacific and Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Cambodia, and Vietnam.



**Lili Wang**

Associate researcher – Chinese  
Center for Disease Control and  
Prevention

Beijing, China

**Ms Lili Wang** is an Associate Researcher at the Center for Global Public Health, China CDC, with 14 years of experience as a global health professional. She specializes in infectious disease control and tobacco control. Wang has coordinated collaborations with Sierra Leone, Africa CDC, and ASEAN to strengthen laboratory capacity, and emergency preparedness. She has also contributed to the innovation of public health goods. With expertise in multilateral partnerships and health diplomacy, she is dedicated to advancing global health security and equity through evidence-based strategies and cross-border collaboration.



## FELLOWS



**Lina Balsyte**

Healthcare & Life Science Lead  
Southeast Asia – Business Sweden

Singapore

**Ms Lina Balsyte** is a global health and trade specialist with 13 years of experience at Business Sweden – The Swedish Trade & Invest Council – with postings in Vilnius, Dubai, Riyadh, and most recently Singapore, where she has spent the past 1.5 years leading healthcare and life sciences efforts across Southeast Asia. Passionate about creating ecosystems that drive progress and innovation in healthcare and society, she has led initiatives in cancer care, capacity building, healthcare infrastructure development, and digitalization across complex markets including Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and India. Currently, she guides teams working on Sweden's Trade & Development assignments.



**Malin Parkler**

Managing Director/Country Manager  
– Pfizer

Sweden

**Ms Malin Parkler** is a public health and pharmaceutical leader with over two decades of experience in the industry. After a few years in research and education at the Unit for Preventive Nutrition at Karolinska Institutet, she transitioned to the pharmaceutical sector. She has spent 20 years at Pfizer, holding several positions, including Business Unit Head and Regional Sales Manager, Global Commercial Lead and has served as Country Manager for Sweden since 2014. Malin holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a Master of Medical Science from Karolinska Institutet. She has been a board member of the Swedish Pharma Association since 2014, serving as Vice Chair in 2018 and Chair from 2019 to 2024. She is also a member of AmCham Sweden's Board of Directors since 2016 and served as Chair from 2019 to 2022.



**Nicaise Ndembu**

Deputy Director General and  
Inaugural Director – International  
Vaccine Institute

Kigali, Rwanda

**Dr Nicaise Ndembu** is the Deputy Director General and Regional Director of the IVI Africa Regional Office, based in Kigali, Rwanda. An accomplished virologist, he is also an Associate Professor at the University of Maryland and a Research Professor at Kanazawa University. Previously, he was Principal Advisor to Africa CDC's Director General, where he established the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing.

## FELLOWS



### **Nojus Saad**

President & CEO – Youth For  
Women Foundation

Gif-sur-Yvette, France  
& Erbil, Iraq

Dr. Nojus Saad is a global health diplomat, physician, and social entrepreneur advancing health justice and digital innovation. As a technical advisor to the World Health Organization, he co-develops health indicators adopted by WHO, UNFPA, the World Bank, and H6+ Partners, driving global policy accountability.

Founder of Youth For Women Foundation, he launched 41 youth-led initiatives, impacting over 16,500 individuals across Iraq, India, and France and securing nearly \$100,000 to scale digital sexual, reproductive, and mental health interventions. A former Vice Chair of WHO's PMNCH, he has led youth coalitions across 12 SWANA countries.

An advisor to UNOPS Executive Leadership and Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation, he merges AI-driven mental healthcare with diplomacy. Dr. Saad is also an executive producer of TOXSICK, a global health justice whistleblowing film exposing health system failures in addressing benzodiazepine dependence.



### **Priya Kanayson**

Director of Policy, Advocacy and  
Communications – Global Institute  
for Disease Elimination

Abu Dhabi, UAE

Ms Priya Kanayson is a global health policy and advocacy specialist with extensive experience in cultivating relationships and driving policy outcomes in cross-cultural settings. She currently oversees the policy, advocacy and communications portfolios at the Global Institute for Disease Elimination (GLIDE) and is part of its senior leadership team. A founding member of the Women in Global Health UAE Chapter, Priya previously served as Policy & Advocacy Manager at the NCD Alliance, where she focused on integrating non-communicable diseases with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, RMNCAH, universal health coverage, and health financing. She holds an MPH with Delta Omega distinction from New York University and a BSc in Biology from the University of California, San Diego.

## FELLOWS



**Rachel Grant**

London, UK

Executive Director, External and  
Investor Relations – CEPI

**Ms Rachel Grant** has been at CEPI since 2017 and has just returned from a sabbatical studying for a Masters in Organisational Psychology. Her career has spanned work in public, private and charitable sectors. Her roles have included Global Director of Media Relations at McKinsey & Company and as former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair's Director of Communications. She spent a number of years as part of the Downing Street media operation and ran the UK Government's media response to the 2007 outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease. Rachel also holds a Joint Honours Degree in History and English from Oxford University.



**Sylvia Hamata**

Windhoek, Namibia

President – Independent  
Midwives Association of Namibia

**Ms Sylvia Penelao Hamata** is an advocate for maternal and newborn health, gender equity, and transformative healthcare policies. With a background in midwifery, law, and governance, she has experience in global health advocacy and high-level policy discussions. She has contributed to midwifery leadership, health governance policies, and reproductive health rights while working to ensure midwives are recognized in decision-making. Passionate about strategic diplomacy, health equity, and human rights, Sylvia uses advocacy and negotiation to amplify marginalized voices and create lasting policy impact in global health.



**Shingai Machingaidze**

London/Zimbabwe

Head of Africa Strategy & Engagement,  
Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness  
Innovations CEPI

**Shingai Machingaidze** is an epidemiologist and global health expert. She has developed and led strategic public health programs as well as clinical research programs that build the capacity of scientists and institutions in Africa. She has published in leading scientific journals and is a member of several institutional, regional and global advisory boards including the Advisory Committee for the Clinical Trials Community and is currently the Co-Chair of the 100 Days Mission – Science Technology Expert Group (STEG). She was previously the Chief Science Officer Ag. for Africa CDC as well as the CPHIA Secretariat Lead and currently serves as the Head of Africa Strategy and Engagement at CEPI.



## FELLOWS



**Takuma Kato**

New York, USA

Counsellor – Permanent Mission  
of Japan to the United Nations

Dr Takuma Kato is a medical professional and public health expert with experience in health policy, global health, and clinical practice. He currently serves as Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations. Previously, at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan, he contributed to strengthening health systems and advancing the public health insurance fee schedule. He also played a vital role in Japan's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. His international contributions include projects in Myanmar and Zambia, as well as engagement in global health forums such as the WHO. Dr. Kato earned his M.D. and Ph.D. from Keio University.



**Violeta Canaves**

New York, USA

Senior Advocacy Advisor – IPPF

Dr Violeta Canaves has dedicated her career to advancing health, human rights, and reproductive justice at international, regional, national, and local levels. Her work centers on leveraging human rights law to drive systemic change, collaborating with official actors and social movements alike. With deep expertise in sexual and reproductive health and rights, Violeta brings a rare blend of grassroots experience in Argentina with technical roles in global organizations like UNFPA and IPPF. She earned her JSD from Yale Law School, with a dissertation on human rights and access to abortion in Latin America, underscoring her commitment to health equity and transformative advocacy.



**Will Hall**

London, UK

Director of External Affairs – CARB-X

Mr Will Hall is a Director of External Affairs at CARB-X, a global non-profit, which supports the development of new antibiotics and other life-saving products to combat drug-resistant bacteria. He joined CARB-X from Wellcome, where he was most recently Head of Global Government Relations. Before this, he led several key policy areas for Wellcome including access and epidemic preparedness, and worked at the heart of Wellcome's international Covid-19 response. He began his career in finance before moving to the UK Treasury and advising ministers on a range of policy issues. He's passionate about global health and AMR in particular, having worked on the Review on AMR in 2014, and co-authored a book on the issue in 2018. He holds an Executive MPP from the LSE.

## FACULTY



**Dr Alvaro Bermejo**  
Director General, IPPF

London, UK

Dr Alvaro Bermejo is the Director General of International Planned Parenthood Federation. He has worked for more than 20 years as a senior executive in global federations, working across HIV and AIDS, humanitarian issues and health policy. He was previously Director at ClIFF, where he helped build an adolescent sexual and reproductive health portfolio in addition to the more established health, nutrition and education portfolios. Prior to joining ClIFF, he led the International HIV/AIDS Alliance.



**Dr Balram Bhargava**  
President, National Academy of  
Sciences in India; Non-Executive  
Director, Cipla and Strategic Advisor,  
Serum Institute of India

New Delhi, India

Dr Balram Bhargava is a mission driven, results oriented health professional with more than 35 years of experience in leading medical research, strengthening health systems, health care innovation, managing pandemic preparedness and health care delivery in resource poor settings. As a global leader he has been in the forefront of south-south cooperation, promoting equity in access to health care, democratisation of scientific research and promoting public-private cooperation to bring new technologies and affordable innovative products into the health systems.



**Mr Christian Danielsson**  
State Secretary to Minister for EU  
Affairs; ex-Swedish Foreign Minister

Stockholm, Sweden

Mr Christian Danielsson is a seasoned professional in European affairs, currently serving as the State Secretary for EU Affairs in the Swedish Prime Minister's Office. With an extensive background in EU relations, he has held prominent roles, including Director-General at the European Commission and Sweden's Permanent Representative to the EU.

## FACULTY



**Ms Christine McNab**

Ontario, Canada

Coordinator and Advisor, The  
Independent Panel for Pandemic  
Preparedness and Response

**Ms Christine McNab** works with leading organizations in health and development, building on 20 years of experience in journalism, global health, communication, advocacy, program design, and multimedia work including photography. McNab is skilled in project design and management; creating, implementing and analysing innovative communication and advocacy programs; and conceptualising and producing multimedia projects. She is also an experienced photographer, writer and video director, and loves working with people to tell their powerful stories.



**Mr Elhadj As Sy**

Dakar, Senegal

Board chair, Kofi Annan Foundation;  
former Secretary General, International  
Red Cross Federation

**Mr Elhadj As Sy** is the Chancellor of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Chair of Kofi Annan Foundation and Former Secretary General of IFRC. He has extensive experience in leadership roles in humanitarian, health and development sectors, having previously served at senior level with UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNDP, Enda Tiers Monde and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and other agencies for more than 35 years.



**Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari**

Doha, Qatar

Managing Director, Hamad Medical  
Corporation; former Minister of Public  
Health Qatar

**Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari** was appointed as Qatar's Minister of Public Health in January 2016. She is the Managing Director of Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), a position she has held since 2007. She currently chairs, co-chairs, and takes part in several health, research, and advisory boards, including the Academic Health System International Advisory Board, the Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute International Advisory Board, and other committees at the Ministry of Public Health. She previously worked at the World Health Organization, Reuters, and as a freelance health reporter and writer.



## FACULTY



**Prof Helen Evans**

Melbourne, Australia

Professor, University of Melbourne;  
former deputy Executive Director,  
Gavi and the Global Fund

**Professor Helen Evans** is an experienced leader and manager in both complex global health organisations and in the public sector in Australia with a particular focus on infectious diseases. She served as Deputy CEO at Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance based in Geneva from 2009 till 2014. Prior to joining Gavi, Evans was Deputy Executive Director at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria between 2005 and 2009. For the seven years prior to moving to Geneva, she headed the Australian Government's Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Professor Evans now lives in Melbourne where she has an honorary appointment as a Professor at the Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne.



**Dr John N. Nkengasong**

Washington, D.C., USA

Executive Director, Higher Education,  
Collaboratives and Special Initiatives  
Mastercard Foundation

**Dr John N. Nkengasong** is a distinguished public health leader. He is the former U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and head of the Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy at the U.S. State Department. This bureau centralized efforts against global health threats, including HIV/AIDS, and houses PEPFAR, symbolizing a major stride in integrating health security within U.S. national security and foreign policy. With a robust background including former Executive Director for the Africa CDC and leading Africa's COVID-19 response, Dr Nkengasong's tenure has been marked by significant global health contributions and recognitions, establishing him as a pivotal figure in contemporary public health advocacy and action.



**Prof Johan Rockström**

Postdam, Germany

Director, Potsdam Institute for  
Climate Impact Research

**Professor Johan Rockström** is one of the world's leading scientists on global sustainability, climate change, resilience and global water resources. With over 150 research publications, his work spans fields ranging from applied land and water management to global environmental policy. Since 2018 he has served as Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and Professor of Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam. Prior to his current roles, Rockström co-founded and directed the Stockholm Resilience Centre from 2004 until 2018.

## FACULTY



**Ms Joy Phumaphi**

Gaborone, Botswana

Executive Secretary, African Leaders Malaria Alliance; ex-Vice President Human Development, World Bank; ex-Assistant Director General for Family & Community Health, WHO; ex-Minister of Health, Botswana

**Ms Joy Phumaphi**, a prominent figure in global health and former Minister of Health of Botswana, plays a crucial role in various health initiatives, including her positions as the Executive Secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance and Co-Chair of several influential partnerships focusing on children's safety, climate change, and malaria eradication. Her extensive career has also seen her contribute significantly to the WHO as Assistant Director-General and to the World Bank as Vice President for Human Development, driving major global health policies and programs. With a strong foundation in finance and accounting, Phumaphi has been instrumental in introducing ground-breaking health interventions and continues to impact global health through her leadership and advisory roles.



**Dr Magda Robalo**

Bissau, Guinea-Bissau

President and co-founder, The Institute for Global Health and Development; former Minister of Health, Guinea-Bissau

**Dr Magda Robalo** is the president and co-founder of The Institute for Global Health and Development. She is an infectious disease physician and public health expert. With her extensive experience in health policy and advocacy, Dr Robalo has championed equitable access to healthcare for all, especially the most vulnerable populations. She spearheaded successful initiatives in her current and past roles as Minister of Public Health, Presidential High Commissioner for the COVID-19 response in Guinea-Bissau, WHO Representative and WHO Director of Communicable Diseases. She co-chairs the UHC2030 Steering Committee.



**Amb Prof Mark Dybul**

Washington, D.C., USA

Professor, Georgetown University; former ED Global Fund; former Head of PEPFAR

**Amb. Prof. Mark Dybul** is the Founding Co-Director and Chief Strategy Officer of the Center for Global Health Practice and Impact, and Professor in the Department of Medicine at Georgetown University Medical Center. A well-recognized global health expert and humanitarian, Dr Dybul served as Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and as the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, overseeing the implementation of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

## FACULTY



**Ms Nndi Okonkwo Nwuneli**

Washington, D.C., USA

President and CEO,  
ONE Campaign

Ms Nndi Okonkwo Nwuneli is the President/CEO of the ONE Campaign, a global advocacy organization that fights for the investments needed to ensure economic opportunities and healthier lives in Africa. She is an expert on agriculture and nutrition, entrepreneurship, social innovation, and philanthropy. She has over 25 years of international development experience and is the founder of LEAP Africa and African Food Changemakers. She is also the co-founder of Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition Ltd., AACE Foods Processing & Distribution Ltd and Wealth4Impact. Nwuneli also serves on the boards of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Chanel Foundation, Stanbic IBTC Group, the Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum, and the Bridgespan Group.



**Prof Peter Piot**

London, UK

Professor of Global Health and  
former Director, LSHTM; founding  
Executive Director, UNAIDS

Prof Peter Piot is a Professor of Global Health and former Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He was the founding Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. Professor Piot is one of the world's leaders in global health, and has made numerous original research contributions to the microbiology, epidemiology, clinical description, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases in Africa.



**Dr Ren Minghui**

Beijing, China

Professor, Department of Global  
Health, School of Public Health,  
Peking University

Dr Ren Minghui is a professor at the Department of Global Health, School of Public Health, Peking University (PKU). He is also the Director of Institute for Global Health, and the Director of China Center for Health Development Studies, PKU. He served as the Assistant Director-General at the WHO headquarters from January 2016 to November 2022, overseeing various critical programs, including HIV, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, non-communicable diseases and mental health. In addition to his WHO role, he represented the organization on the boards of several global health entities, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, UNAIDS, and Unitaids.



## FACULTY



**Dr Sania Nishtar**  
CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Geneva, Switzerland

**Dr Sania Nishtar** is the CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Dr Nishtar, most recently a Senator in her home country of Pakistan, joined Gavi as its CEO on 18 March 2024. A trained medical doctor, she has built an outstanding career over 30 years as a national and global leader. She served as a Senator in her home country of Pakistan; as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation; and as a Federal Minister with responsibility for re-establishing the country's Ministry of Health. Dr Nishtar has fulfilled several leadership positions in civil society and international organisations; founded a health reform non-profit NGO think tank in Pakistan; co-authored dozens of academic papers and books; and published in leading newspapers.



**Dr Thoraya Obaid**  
former Executive Director, UNFPA

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

**Dr Thoraya Obaid** was the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations from 2001 to 2010. Throughout her career, Dr. Obaid has championed the causes of women's and young people's health and empowerment. In her role as UNFPA Executive Director (the first Saudi Arabian to head a United Nations agency), Dr. Obaid introduced a focus on culture to the Fund's development work, linking gender, universal values of human rights, and values of human worth promoted by all religions and found in all cultures.

## PROGRAM LEADERSHIP



**Anders Nordström**

Stockholm, Sweden

Program Co-Director  
Politics & Diplomacy for Health, SSE/KI,  
ex-Ambassador for Global Health, Sweden,  
ex-WHO ADG, act-DG and WR,  
ex-Director General, Sida,  
ex-Interim Executive Director, GFATM

Dr Anders Nordström has had a distinguished career in global health, having served as the Ambassador for Global Health for Sweden and the Acting Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). His work has significantly impacted global health policies and practices, including his involvement in establishing the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Today, he continues to influence the field through board memberships and participation in advisory groups dedicated to health systems research and universal health advocacy.



**Gunilla Carlsson**

Évian-les-Bains,  
France

Program Co-Director  
Politics & Diplomacy for Health, SSE/KI,  
ex-Minister for International Development  
Cooperation, Sweden, ex-Assistant Director  
General, UNAIDS, ex-member of EU Parliament

Ms Gunilla Carlsson has made significant contributions to global health and development, joining UNAIDS in 2018 as Deputy Executive Director and later serving as its Executive Director ad interim. Her political career includes representing Sweden in both national and European parliaments and serving as the Minister for International Development Cooperation. Carlsson has also played a vital role in shaping global sustainability and development policies, including her appointments to high-level United Nations panels focusing on sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.

## PROGRAM LEADERSHIP



**Tobias Alfvén**

Stockholm, Sweden

Professor/ Specialist Physician,  
Department of Global Public Health,  
Karolinska Institutet

Prof Tobias Alfvén leads the Global Child Health and Sustainable Development Goals team at the Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet. He also heads the research network in global health and infectious diseases at Sachs' Children & Youth Hospital. Additionally, he co-chairs the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Health (CESH), a collaboration between Karolinska Institutet and Makerere University. Furthermore, he serves as the Chair of the Swedish Society of Medicine and the chair of Agenda for Health and Prosperity.



**Karl Wennberg**

Stockholm, Sweden

Professor / Scientific Director of House of  
Governance and Public Policy at the  
Stockholm School of Economics

Prof Karl Wennberg holds the Barbara Bergström Chair in Educational Leadership and Excellence. His research focuses on the Economics of Education, Entrepreneurship, and Organization Theory. Currently, his work centers on organizational diversity, leadership, and the working environment in schools, particularly in the transformation of poorly functioning schools to more effective ones. He has lectured internationally and provided consultancy services for NGOs, governments, and private firms across Europe, Asia, North America, and Australia.



**Clara Luthman**

Stockholm, Sweden

Program coordinator

Ms Clara Luthman previously served as Managing Director of the foundation Help to Help, which enables higher education for young talents in East Africa. Her work focused on developing educational programs, building partnerships with the private sector, and leading the international team. With experience at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Public Health Agency of Sweden, and the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in Geneva, she has expertise in global health policy and diplomacy.



## **Health Diplomacy**

*Health diplomacy is the art and science by which governments, the private sector, civil society, and individuals navigate political processes to improve health outcomes. It operates in both domestic and international contexts, encompassing bilateral and multilateral agreements, the use of health as a foreign policy tool, and the finding of solutions to cross-border health challenges.*

## **Global Health Diplomacy**

*A key subset of health diplomacy is Global Health Diplomacy, which operates at the intersection of health and international relations on the global stage. It encompasses global health governance, the coordination of efforts, and the negotiation of priorities among international organizations, states, and non-state actors. While its primary focus is global, it also intersects with domestic policies on complex issues such as climate change, crisis preparedness and response, and health financing.*

## **Who are health diplomats?**

*Health diplomacy involves a wide range of professionals, reflecting the reality that health outcomes cannot be achieved by the health sector alone. Health diplomats include individuals working in Ministries of Foreign Affairs, government agencies, public institutions, the private sector (both corporate and not-for-profit), and humanitarian organizations. These professionals use the tools of health diplomacy to advocate for and advance health objectives across sectors.*