

PROMOTING VACCINE CONFIDENCE

ENHANCING GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF ALL GENERATIONS

Side event to the 72nd World Health Assembly
Tuesday 21 May, 12:30-14:00
Palais des Nations, Room XXIII

OPENING REMARKS:

Alex M. Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, USA
Commissioner Dr. **Vytenis Andriukaitis**, European Commissioner, European Union
Dr. **Luiz Henrique Mandetta**, Minister of Health, Brazil

PANELISTS:

Dr. Theresa Tam
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
Prof. Dr. Alexandru Rafila
Romania, Member of WHO Executive Board
Prof. Dr. Heidi Larson
Director, The Vaccine Confidence Project
(by video)
Dr. Seth Berkley
CEO, GAVI Vaccine Alliance
Prof. Dr. Peter Hotez
Dean, the Baylor College of Medicine National
School of Tropical Medicine

MODERATOR: Dr. Katherine O'Brien

Director, Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, WHO



Immunization is one of the most cost effective public health interventions. It prevents currently 2-3 million deaths per year and is our most reliable front-line defence against infectious disease. Yet, despite profound global successes, vaccination has become the victim of its own success.

The progress we have made is threatened by complacency coupled with misunderstanding and misinformation about vaccines that has undermined public trust, resulting in outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases among communities or individuals who have decided to delay a decision to vaccinate or decided not to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines and vaccination services.

This side event will raise awareness of the need for global, regional and national focus on vaccine confidence as part of effective vaccination programming through community engagement and other approaches toward continued progress against vaccine preventable diseases.



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