



Angela Merkel

#### Message to the World Health Summit 2014

Health is a precious asset for everyone in the world. Medical progress therefore does not only involve researching and understanding methods for promising care, diagnosis and treatment, but also the capacity to apply this knowledge everywhere. Each year, the World Health Summit addresses this global challenge, which is faced equally by academia, the political sphere and society. As a widely recognised forum with high-ranking participants, the event provides an ideal format for identifying needs and opportunities for joint action.

The international community is currently at a crucial stage. What is important now is that we set the course for ambitiously expanding the Millennium Development Goals. Hence, I am very pleased that this year's World Health Summit will focus, among other things, on the links between climate change and health. By exploring various aspects of this field, we will be able to see very clearly how close international cooperation is urgently needed in order to limit global warming and its effects.

As patron of the World Health Summit, I would like to wish all of us a successful event. I hope that all of the participants will benefit from interesting meetings and productive discussions.

Angela Merkel  
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

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Grußwort anlässlich des World Health Summit 2014

Gesundheit ist ein überaus kostbares Gut – dies gilt für alle Menschen auf der Welt. Medizinischer Fortschritt bedeutet folgerichtig, Mittel und Wege für erfolgversprechende Vorsorge, Diagnose und Therapie nicht nur zu erforschen und zu kennen. Das Wissen muss auch überall zur Anwendung gebracht werden können. Diese globale Herausforderung, vor der Wissenschaft, Wirtschaft, Politik und Gesellschaft gleichermaßen stehen, greift Jahr für Jahr der World Health Summit auf. Er bietet als weithin anerkanntes und hochrangig besetztes Forum einen idealen Rahmen, um Notwendigkeiten und Möglichkeiten gemeinsamen Handelns aufzuzeigen.

Die internationale Staatengemeinschaft befindet sich derzeit in einer entscheidenden Phase, in der es gilt, die Weichen für eine ambitionierte Weiterentwicklung der Millenniumsziele zu stellen. Daher begrüße ich es sehr, dass der diesjährige World Health Summit einen Schwerpunkt auch auf Zusammenhänge zwischen Klimawandel und Gesundheit legt. Durch die Herausstellung verschiedener Dimensionen der Aufgabe wird uns besonders eindringlich vor Augen geführt, wie sehr wir bei der Begrenzung der Erderwärmung und ihrer Folgen auf eine enge internationale Zusammenarbeit angewiesen sind.

Als Schirmherrin wünsche ich daher uns allen einen erfolgreichen World Health Summit 2014 und allen Beteiligten interessante Begegnungen und gewinnbringende Gespräche.

Angela Merkel  
Bundeskanzlerin der Bundesrepublik Deutschland



François Hollande

Are we the masters of our own health?

Considering the determinants for health in the world means evoking economic inequalities, technological progress, cultural influences and diet. It also means considering the determinants which we may be able to control given that they will become hugely influential in the decades ahead.

This year's World Health Summit thus focuses on the influence of climate change on our health. The Summit, which is relevant to people the world over, precedes the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) to be held in Paris in December 2015. Each Summit participant will therefore make their own contribution. By discussing the health of people and their environment, you will participate in the joint reflection which must culminate in a global climate compact. I am thus very much looking forward to seeing the outcome of your work.

Sommes-nous les maîtres de notre santé ?

S'interroger sur les facteurs déterminants de la Santé dans le monde, c'est évoquer les inégalités économiques, les progrès technologiques, les influences culturelles, l'alimentation. C'est aussi s'interroger sur les déterminants dont le contrôle pourrait être à notre portée alors que leur influence sera considérable dans les décennies à venir.

C'est ainsi que le Sommet Mondial de la Santé est consacré cette année à l'influence des modifications climatiques sur la Santé. Ce sommet qui concerne chaque citoyen du monde précède la conférence mondiale sur le climat qui se tiendra à Paris au mois de décembre 2015. Chaque participant à ce Sommet apportera ainsi sa pierre à l'édifice. En vous référant à la Santé de l'homme et à son environnement, vous contribuerez à la réflexion commune qui doit aboutir à la construction d'un pacte mondial sur le climat.

J'attends donc avec beaucoup d'intérêt les résultats de vos travaux.



François Hollande  
President of the French Republic

### Looking ahead

When European citizens are asked about their priorities for the 15 next years, health and medical care emerge as the number one concern. European citizens also believe that the greatest impact of science and technological innovation will be on health improvement. Health-oriented policymaking must therefore become a clear priority. All the more so as the coming decades will see major simultaneous changes – aging population and the growing chronic diseases burden, urbanisation, pollution or climate change – that will increase the health and wealth vulnerability of our society.

Fortunately, within the same timeframe, convergence of the neuro-, nano-, bio-, and info-technologies will open up new avenues for improved medical care, and especially the opportunity for personalised medicine. In particular, medical progress will benefit immensely from access to “Big Data”, generated by rapid genome sequencing for example, and the related computational power. It is paramount that the EU keeps up its efforts in these trans-disciplinary fields that will boost innovation.

Technological solutions will however only improve health in Europe if they are affordable. The costs of neurological-related diseases alone amount to €800 billion a year in Europe and can only increase and challenge equity. This is why it is important to put a strong emphasis on preventing avoidable diseases and promoting public health.

Europe needs sustainable and efficient health systems able to provide healthcare to all citizens now and for generations to come. For this to happen, all actors – citizens, health professionals, the biomedical and pharmaceutical industry, the research community, the insurance sector, educators and policymakers – must work hand in hand.



José Manuel Barroso

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José Manuel Barroso  
President of European Commission