

# WELCOME MESSAGES

## HIGH PATRONS OF THE WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT



A warm welcome to the World Health Summit (WHS) in Berlin!

The challenges facing global health could hardly be greater. The COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over, its impact continues to be felt all over the world. In July, the WHO had to declare a public health emergency of international concern for the second time in a few years—this time due to the monkeypox virus. Global warming, war and consequently hunger and migration are putting additional pressure on our healthcare systems and healthcare provision.

It is therefore all the more important that this year the WHS is focusing particularly on the complex interdependency between climate change, food systems, digital transformation, peace and global health. And at the same time the WHS is pro-

viding the only right response to all these challenges: bringing experts from all over the world together to facilitate joint, internationally coordinated action. The fact that this year's WHS is being hosted together with the WHO is therefore an important signal.

The achievements of globally coordinated action are considerable. So far, more than one billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed to 144 countries via the *ACT-Accelerator*. The WHO's mRNA hub has supported African countries with knowhow and technology to produce mRNA vaccines locally.

As challenging as the present is, we can now set our sights on the future thanks to effective vaccines, new treatments and the two and a half years of experience we now have in dealing with the pandemic. For me, that means first and foremost ensuring that our global health architecture is better equipped for the future. We want to do what we can to achieve this with the *G7 Pact for Pandemic Readiness*, adopted under the German G7 Presidency. It is also important that we share data swiftly and reliably and make

it available for research—on the basis of international standards, not least with regard to data protection. We have a good starting point for this here in Berlin with the WHO *Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence*.

When I write “we”, I am, of course, not only referring to governments but also to experts like you—from the health sector, from the areas of development cooperation, research, civil society and business. The *One Health* approach requires even closer interdisciplinary and international cooperation.

Forums such as the WHS are and remain indispensable. For they ensure that critical debate can take place which provides space for different perspectives and allows free academic exchange at the highest level, thereby laying the foundation for knowledge-based and rational policymaking. The importance of this has also been revealed by the pandemic, during which huge doubt was cast on scientific findings in some quarters or they became the focus of targeted misinformation campaigns.

Academic exchange and combined expertise can help to counter this. Both are needed in the search for innovative solutions that can make our healthcare systems fit for the future. And both are embodied in the WHS and in you as participants.

I hope you have a successful and fruitful time here at the WHS in Berlin!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Olaf Scholz', written in a cursive style.

**Olaf Scholz**  
Chancellor of the  
Federal Republic of Germany