



Wilton Park

## Programme

# Healthy societies and healthy populations: urgent actions for healthy futures - learning from COVID-19

21 April 2021 | 1100 – 1400 BST | WP1923V

## Context and key policy issues

This is the first in a series of dialogues which will focus on bringing together participants to identify steps to build healthy futures, through multisectoral approaches to sustainable health and well-being. Building on previous dialogues, this series will develop policy actions to ensure health is at the centre of building an equitable greener economic recovery post COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on progress towards achieving all SDGs including global goals for health. Notably, Sustainable Development Goal 3: **ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages**, as well as to the World Health Organization's 'triple billion goals', specifically a further **billion people enjoying better health and well-being**.

Despite the setbacks, the pandemic provides a unique opportunity to transform our approach to achieving these goals for health and to reimagine how we build equitable healthy societies, while simultaneously supporting a green economic recovery and addressing SDGs on climate and the environment and the Paris Agreement. 2021 is a year for action, with the G7, G20, the Food Systems Summit, the Convention on Biological Diversity and COP26 all taking place. The pandemic has also drawn attention to the interconnectedness between health, climate, the environment, biodiversity and a need for 'one health' and 'whole of society' policy approaches. Fostering a multisectoral approach, through linking key policy goals across these important fora will be key to successfully achieve a healthy, green future.

In February 2020, Wilton Park brought together a diverse group of international experts to identify ways to build healthy societies and therefore healthy populations. See report here: [Wilton Park](#)

This dialogue will follow on, one year later, reconvening the experts, as well as introducing additional voices to ensure representation from across the globe.

## Goal and objectives

This series of dialogues will focus on a multisectoral, 'whole of society approach' to the post-COVID response, ensuring that health outcomes are more broadly connected to, and at the heart of, policy actions for both economic recovery and future mitigation from pandemics. Given the world's focus on ending and recovering from the pandemic, there is a risk the global community will narrow its focus on pandemic preparedness, with unintended consequences for a broader view of health. The dialogues will support a wider

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high-level ambition for international agreement on multisectoral approaches to healthy societies and a healthy planet and recognition that these must go hand in hand.

What we value as success and clarity of measuring impact also needs further focus. Notably the WHO in January 2021 reported on Social Determinants of Health at the Executive Board.

The dialogues will focus on how to best achieve the triple billion goals for healthy societies and healthy populations established by WHO whilst simultaneously supporting a green recovery and addressing SDGs on climate and the environment and where new opportunities lie, taking into consideration the impacts of COVID-19.

Multisectoral stakeholders across academia, the private sector, government and civil society need to consider new and existing frameworks for collective and collaborative action and policy priorities where the collective objectives are healthy societies, living in a healthy environment with equitable standards of living and livelihoods for all.

In the midst of the pandemic and with the backdrop of the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement, conversations will focus on the interconnectedness of health, climate and the environment. With particular focus on:

- Ensuring a healthy planet, healthy people and healthy political economies;
- Given the unprecedented global social movements that have arisen during the pandemic, what have been the major achievements since the last meeting which impact achieving healthy populations? What have been the set-backs? How has COVID impacted negatively and positively and what positive change has been enabled by the crisis?
- What are the key changes in policy and approaches that will be needed to ensure that health is embedded into the recovery to socio-economic equity and healthy societies and environment? What incentives and policy changes will enable a multisectoral approach to achieve healthier societies?
- Looking forward, where are the new opportunities?

## Wednesday 21 April

### 3-hour session

**1100 BST = 1900 in Manila; 0600 in New York; 0800 in Brazil**

1100-1115

### Orientation session

Technical check ahead of the official start of the meeting.

#### 1. Welcome, introductions & overview

Scene setting, the context in which this discussion is taking place and related discussions, upcoming global meetings, COP26, UN Food Systems Summit, reports from the Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Convention on Biological Diversity, WTO and on-going COVID initiatives etc.

#### **Nancy Lee**

Programme Director Wilton Park

#### **Per Olsson Fridh**

Minister for International Development Cooperation, Government of Sweden

**Helen Clark**

Chair, Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response

**Abdul Ghaffar**

Executive Director, Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, World Health Organization

1115-1150

**2. Healthy societies, healthy populations: Reflections- Learnings and achievements from a year of COVID**

In the context of a year of COVID and just over one year since the initial Wilton Park meeting in February 2020, what achievements and lessons towards achieving increased health and well-being should be highlighted? What significant changes have you seen which affect achieving healthy societies and healthy populations? What has impacted our social determinants of health? What has been achieved so far? What are the ongoing actions and what are people already working on? What are the gaps which remain? What impact has COVID had and what lessons can be learned going forward?

**Chair: Githinji Gitahi**

Group Chief Executive, Amref Health Africa

**Kumanan Rasanthan**

Unit Head, Equity and Health (EQH), World Health Organization

**Etienne Krug**

Director, Department for Social Determinants of Health, Division of UHC/Healthier Populations, World Health Organization

**Sudhvir Singh**

Advisor, Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response

**Paula Johns**

Director General, ACT Health Promotion, Brazil

1150-1225

**3. Breakout groups: Healthy societies, healthy populations: Reflections- Learnings and achievements from a year of COVID**

*Short breakouts (25 min) 10 min feedback*

*feedback of key issue: Broadly:*

- *What key lessons have been learned?*
- *What has been achieved?*
- *What needs to change?*

Group 1 – Renzo Guinto

Group 2 – Andy Haines

Group 3 – Sarah Hawkes

Group 4 – Yogapragasen (Yogan) Pillay

*Feedback: 2 issues from each group*

1225-1230

Break

1230-1300

**4. Healthy societies – what needs to change: theoretical frameworks?**

What are the key actions needed across all the whole of society to ensure healthy populations including embedding health into all aspects of recovery from the impacts of COVID? What is required to rethink current models of growth and development so future investments work sustainably for the health of both people and planet?

How to create synergies and focus on healthy societies with other international processes such as COP26, the Food Systems Summit?

So, what next? How to build the movement towards healthy societies using the response to, and aftermath of, the pandemic? How to maximise the leverage, co-benefits and synergies of building healthy populations/ societies and a healthy planet and healthy environment? What needs to happen next, and by whom?

- What are the key actions needed for healthy societies and populations?
- What are the key opportunities and synergies over the next year to operationalise these?

**Chair: Stefan Peterson**

Professor, Global Transformations for Health, Karolinska Institute

**Rene Loewenson**

Director, Training and Research Support Centre, Zimbabwe

**Maja Fjaestad**

State Secretary for Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Government of Sweden

**Wilmot James**

Senior Research Scholar, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP) Faculty of Social Sciences Columbia University

1300-1315

## 5. What needs to change? Future focus: Positive actions to take forward

How can a 'whole of society' approach be applied to achieve healthy futures. What issues need to be covered in more detail going forward, who needs to take these actions? What cross sectoral linkages need to be made both in and across sectors and government to achieve this? Who should take on responsibility for these actions?

Speakers will be asked to respond to the question: *'What is one thing you think needs to change to achieve equitable healthy futures?'* This session will provide provocation and impetus for longer, in depth discussion in breakout groups. (2 mins max)

**Chair: Gita Sen**

Director, Ramalingaswami Centre on Equity and Social Determinants of Health, Public Health Foundation of India

**Ulrika Modéer**

Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Jo Puri**

Director, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Gunhild Stordalen**

Chief Executive Officer, EAT Forum

**Richard Visser**

Chief Executive Officer, Vera Health and Education, The Netherlands

**Aleksandra Blagojevic**

Interparliamentary Union, Geneva

1315-1355

30 mins breakout  
10 mins feedback

## 6. Breakout groups: What needs to change? Future focus: Positive actions to take forward

Discuss what key changes are needed and from this identify key challenges to be addressed in following dialogues. Who else needs to be engaged for change to happen?

Group 1 – Renzo Guinto  
Group 2 – Andy Haines  
Group 3 – Sarah Hawkes  
Group 4 – Yogapragasen (Yogan) Pillay

Feedback in plenary.

1355-1400

## 7. Conclusion and next steps

Next steps, who else should be engaged and what should be covered in following dialogues?

### **Anders Nordström**

Head of Secretariat, Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response,  
Geneva

**Participation is by invitation only.**

Enquiries about the programme and participation to:

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