



Wilton Park

## Engaging public representatives in biosecurity and pandemic preparedness

Monday 8 November | WP1995V

### Speaker biographies (A-Z by surname)

#### **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected WHO Director-General for a five-year term by WHO Member States at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017. In doing so, he was the first WHO Director-General elected from among multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly, and was the first person from the WHO African Region to head the world's leading public health agency.

#### **Donewell Bangure**

Mr Donewell Bangure is an epidemiologist with African Union in the Laboratory Systems and Networks Division of Africa CDC. He has more than 15 years of work experience in public health laboratories and public health. He was among the first set of field epidemiologist responders for the African Union Support for Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) in 2014-2015 and one of the first epidemiologists to respond to the 9th and 10th Ebola Virus Disease outbreaks in Democratic Republic of Congo in 2018. Before joining Africa CDC, Mr Bangure served for two years as Field Coordinator for the Zimbabwe Field Epidemiology Training Programme and as a Principal Medical Laboratory Scientist for 10 years with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe.

#### **Minister James Cleverly**

James Cleverly was appointed Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office on 13 February 2020. He was first elected as the Conservative MP for Braintree in May 2015.

Mr Cleverly was Minister without Portfolio from 24 July 2019 to 13 February 2020 and Parliamentary under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union from April 2019 to July 2019.

#### **Christopher Cooper**

Christopher Cooter (BA Honours [Political Science], University of Toronto, 1981; MA [Political Science], Columbia University, 1982; BCL, LLB [Common/Civil Law], McGill University, 1986) was called to the British Columbia bar in 1986 and practised law at Campney & Murphy before joining the federal government in 1989 as acting manager of lands for the British Columbia region of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. In 1990, he joined External Affairs and International Trade Canada, serving in Ottawa as an officer in the legal, Europe and policy planning bureaus and then as director of the Southeast Europe Division, director of the Policy Planning Division, director general for executive management and assignments and director general for the amalgamation of the Canadian International Development Agency with Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.

In the Privy Council Office, he worked in the Inter-Governmental Affairs Bureau. In the 1990s, he served abroad as political officer at Canada's missions in Kenya and India, as chargé d'affaires in Cambodia and as deputy permanent representative to NATO (2006 to 2010), high commissioner in Nigeria and permanent observer to the Economic Community of West African States (2010 to 2013), ambassador to Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan (2016 to 2019) and as chargé d'affaires to the European Union (2019 to 2020).

### **Monique Eloit**

Dr Monique Eloit was elected Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on 26 May 2015 by the World Assembly, which brings together the national Delegates of all OIE Member Countries. She began her five-year term of office on 1 January 2016, as the 7th Director General of the OIE, after having served as Deputy Director General of the OIE for six years.

### **Sir Jeremy Farrar**

Sir Jeremy Farrar OBE FMedSci FRS is the Director of Wellcome, a global charitable foundation which supports science to solve urgent health challenges.

Jeremy spent 18 years leading the Clinical Research Unit at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, where he made many pivotal advances in the understanding of diseases like tuberculosis (TB), malaria, typhoid, dengue and influenza, as well as helping to train scientists from across South-east Asia and beyond. He joined Wellcome as Director in 2013.

### **Bruce Gellin**

Dr. Bruce Gellin, M.D. M.P.H., is the Chief of Global Public Health Strategy for The Rockefeller Foundation. In this role, Dr. Gellin advances the development and execution of Rockefeller's strategic vision for global public health and pandemic prevention work. Previous to his role at Rockefeller,

Dr. Gellin was the president of Global Immunization at the Sabin Vaccine Institute. Dr. Gellin has also served as the deputy assistant secretary for health and director of the National Vaccine Program Office at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service (HHS), where he was the principal advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Health on vaccine and immunization programs and policies.

Dr. Gellin also represented HHS as a technical and policy advisor to the World Health Organization with a focus on influenza and vaccine hesitancy and as a contributor to the Decade of Vaccines Collaboration and the Global Action Vaccine Action Plan.

### **Alexander Hamilton**

Dr. Alexander Hamilton assumed his post as Regional Coordinator for South East Asia in April 2020, continuing UNICRI's long-term support to the implementation of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative. With UNICRI since 2012, he has worked extensively with partner countries in South East Asia and Africa, among other regions, to develop strategic actions plans and to deliver capacity-building actions that have helped strengthen national and regional capacity to prevent, detect and respond to CBRN emergencies.

Dr. Hamilton holds a Doctor of Philosophy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) specializing in risk governance and biosecurity. He has published extensively on these subjects, and is a regular contributor to international efforts dedicated to combating biological weapons.

### **Wilmot James**

Wilmot James is a Senior Research Scholar at the Institute for Social and Economic

Research and Policy (ISERP) at Columbia University. He is also an Honorary Professor of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand. Wilmot was previously a Member of Parliament (South Africa) and opposition spokesperson on health. He is the author and/or editor of 17 books that include the policy-oriented *Vital Signs: Health Security in South Africa* (2020) and a co-edited collection of Nelson Mandela's presidential speeches *Nelson Mandela In His Own Words* (2003) given to the late President on his 85th birthday. At Columbia University, he teaches a course on the governance of epidemic response, convenes high-level meetings on planetary threats, conducts research on pandemic response and biosecurity in Africa, leads the Center for Pandemic Research at ISERP and is an Associate Director in the Program in Vaccine Education at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. He presented an interim study of COVID19 pandemic response in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa to the Schmidt-Futures Forum in early 2021 and, as a follow-up, co-convenes the Schmidt Futures supported Columbia-Witwatersrand Vaccine Safety and Confidence-Building Working Group. Wilmot serves as a senior consultant in biosecurity to the Washington DC based Nuclear Threat Initiative. He is a member of the Advisory Board to Resolve to Save Lives. He was recently appointed as the co-chair of the National Frameworks Focal Group of the G7-led Global Partnership (Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction) Africa Signature Initiative.

### **Salim Abdool Karim**

Prof Salim S. Abdool Karim, FRS, is a South African clinical infectious disease epidemiologist, widely recognised for scientific contributions to the prevention and treatment of HIV. He is Director of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), Durban, and CAPRISA Professor of Global Health at Columbia University, New York.

Dr Abdool Karim is an Adjunct Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard University, Boston, Adjunct Professor of Medicine at Cornell University, New York, and Pro-ViceChancellor (Research) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban. Before taking on the role as Chair of the South African Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19, he served as President of the South African Medical Research Council. He is also a member of the African Coronavirus Task Force and a Commissioner of the Lancet Commission on COVID-19.

### **Einas Mohammed**

Einas Mohammed joined the WMD Branch of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in March 2021. She serves as the Africa Regional Coordinator on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Einas's experience encompasses fifteen years in political affairs, international security, and humanitarian affairs, with ten years dedicated to arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation. Between 2010 and 2019, she held progressive roles at the African Union Commission, including as a policy officer on counter-terrorism, senior policy officer for disarmament and non-proliferation, and acting head of the Defense and Security Division. In 2019, Einas joined the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), where she co-authored papers on the implementation of UN arms embargoes and preventing diversion in the arms trade. Prior to her work in the field of international security and arms control, she worked for four years at the World Health Organization's Emergency Health Action programme in Sudan, Somalia, and the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office. Einas holds a master's degree in International Relations from the Free University of Berlin and a post-graduate diploma in Human Rights from the University of Khartoum

### **John Nkengasong**

Dr. John Nkengasong is Director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prior to his current position, he served as the acting deputy principal director of the Center for Global Health, United States Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (U.S. CDC), and Chief of the International Laboratory Branch, Division of Global HIV and TB., U.S CDC. He received a Master's in Tropical Biomedical Science at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, and another Master's Degree in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Brussels School of Medicine and a Doctorate in Medical Sciences (Virology) from the University Of Brussels, Belgium.

### **Hon. Mathume Joseph Phaahla**

Dr. Joe Phaahla became Minister of Health of the Republic of South Africa on 5 August 2021. He has the challenging distinction of taking over a national health ministry in the middle of a pandemic, an extraordinary responsibility. His strong background in health serves him well. He was Deputy Minister of Health from 30 May 2019 to 5 August 2021. He holds a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (previously University of Natal) in 1983.

Dr. Phaahla practiced as a medical practitioner in various hospitals in Kwazulu-Natal, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo until April 1994. Before unbanning of ANC in 1990 served in leadership positions in various mass democratic movement structures including in the NEC of the United Democratic Front. To his everlasting credit, in 2000, he became the Director-General in the Department of Sport and Recreation responsible for organising the successful 2010 FIFA World Cup.

### **Sarah Price**

Sarah Price is a career diplomat at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. She is currently Head of the Counter-Proliferation & Arms Control Centre in the Directorate for Defence and International Security.

Under the rotating G7 presidency, Sarah is also the UK Chair of the Global Partnership Working Group. Her most recent overseas role was HM Ambassador to Finland from 2014 to 2017.

### **Hayley Severance**

Hayley Anne Severance serves as the senior director for the Global Biological Policy and Programs team (NTI | bio). Severance joined NTI as senior program officer for NTI | bio in May 2018. Severance previously served as a senior policy advisor in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, where she developed strategic policy guidance for the Cooperative Threat Reduction's Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) and led the Department's efforts to advance the U.S. commitment under the Global Health Security Agenda.

From 2012-2014, Severance served as the epidemiology subject matter expert for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency CBEP. In this role, she assessed international biological event surveillance, detection, and response systems and developed implementation strategies to meet CBEP programmatic goals in biosafety and biosecurity, cooperative biological research, and surveillance.

### **Trevor Smith**

Trevor Smith is Senior Program Manager and Deputy Director, Biological and Chemical Security Weapons Threat Reduction Program and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Division at Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

Since joining Global Affairs Canada in 1999, Trevor Smith has worked on a range of non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament issues pertaining to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and missiles. He has been a member of Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program since its establishment in 2002, and initially served as Senior Program Manager for chemical weapons destruction (CWD), overseeing Canada's substantial contributions to the Shchuch'ye and Kizner CWD facilities in Russia. During Canada's G8 Presidency in 2010, he led the successful effort to establish biological security as a priority for the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP), which included conclusion of the GP's 5-pillared Strategy for Strengthening Biological Security and solidification of programmatic collaboration at the "health security interface" with, inter alia, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and INTERPOL.

During multiple tenures as co-chair of the Biological & Chemical Security Working Groups of the now 31-country Global Partnership, he spearheaded the successful revision of the GP's Biological Security Deliverables, the review of the Chemical Security Strategic Vision and the launch of a new Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa. He has overseen the initiation and implementation of more than \$700 million in tangible threat reduction and capacity building programming by Canada in dozens of countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe, and has initiated and led numerous innovations and multi-sectoral collaborations to support partner countries, regions and international organisations to prevent, detect and respond to all manner of CBRN threats. Trevor serves as the Canadian National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and oversees Canada's engagement with the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), the United Nations Secretary-General's Mechanism for the Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons (UNSGM) and the Australia Group.

### **Máximo Torero**

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen is the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He joined the Organization in January 2019 as Assistant Director-General for the Economic and Social Development Department. Prior to joining FAO, he had been Executive Director at the World Bank Group since November 2016 and, before the Bank, Dr. Torero led the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

His major research work lies in analyzing poverty, inequality, importance of geography and assets (private or public) in explaining poverty, and in policies oriented towards poverty alleviation based on the role played by infrastructure, institutions, and on how technological breakthroughs (or discontinuities) can improve the welfare of households and small farmers. His experience encompasses Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia.

Dr. Torero, a national of Peru, holds a Ph.D. and a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of the Pacific, Lima, Peru. He is a professor on leave at the University of the Pacific (Peru) and an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at University of Bonn, Germany, and has also published in top journals (QJE, Econometric Theory, AER-Applied Microeconomics, RSTAT, Labor Economics and many other top journals).

In 2000, Dr. Torero has received the Georg Foster Research Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, won the Award for Outstanding Research on Development given by The Global Development Network, twice, in 2000 and in 2002 and received the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole in 2014.