

# 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly

**Building Momentum:**  
Accelerating Action on the Global Health  
and Care Workforce

MAY 20, 2025

12:30 - 1:50 PM

Palais des Nations, Geneva



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## Accelerating Action on the Global Health and Care Workforce

### Theme:

*Building Momentum: Accelerating Action on the Global Health  
and Care Workforce by 2030*

Ensuring a sufficient, competent, and motivated health and care workforce is essential for achieving universal health coverage, advancing primary healthcare, and strengthening global health security. While the global health workforce has grown to over 70 million worldwide, many countries—especially low- and middle-income nations—continue to face critical shortages, uneven distribution, and high attrition, particularly in rural, underserved, and crisis-affected settings.

The World Health Organization projects a global shortfall of over 11 million health workers by 2030. These realities highlight the urgent need for coordinated national, regional, and global actions to ensure an adequate, equitably distributed, protected, and motivated health and care workforce in every country, as a cornerstone of resilient health systems and social justice and equity.

The Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, the Working for Health 2022–2030 Action Plan, and the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel provided strategic frameworks and outlined several actions to progressively optimize, build, and strengthen the health and care workforce needed to deliver UHC and guarantee global health security.

This Side Event aims to catalyze momentum by fostering strategic dialogue, sharing transformative experiences, and identifying practical solutions to common challenges. By coming together, we can accelerate collective efforts to ensure that every country has a health and care workforce that is empowered, equitably distributed, and equipped to meet current and future health needs.



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# PROGRAM

Indicative Time	Topic	Speaker
12:30 PM - 12:40 PM	Opening Messages	H.E. Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, Secretary of Health, Philippines  H.E. Amine Tahraoui, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Kingdom of Morocco
12:40 PM - 12:45 PM	Overview of the World Health Assembly Resolution on Accelerating action on global health and care workforce and Philippine Country Sharing	Dr. Kenneth G. Ronquillo, Undersecretary, Philippine Department of Health
12:45 PM - 1:25 PM	Panel Discussion  <i>Sharing of Experiences and Insights</i> Guide Question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What key initiatives should we prioritize and collaborate on to drive faster progress in achieving the shared objectives outlined in the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 and the Working for Health 2022–2030 Action Plan?</li> </ul> Q & A / Interactive Discussion	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Roland Jopp, Head of the Foreign Expert Personnel Department, German Federal Ministry of Health</li> <li>Ms. Rachel McKenna, Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health, Ireland</li> <li>Mr. Zniber Adil, Director of Human Capital, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Kingdom of Morocco</li> <li>Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health &amp; Wellness, Jamaica</li> </ul> </li> <li>Non-State Actor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Ashok Philip, President, World Medical Association</li> </ul> </li> <li>Health and Care Worker representative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Uche Ralph-Opara, Chief Health Officer, Project HOPE (TBC)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Reactor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Jim Campbell, WHO Director, Health Workforce</li> </ul> Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Vanessa Kerry, President &amp; CEO, Seed Global Health and WHO Special Envoy, Climate Change and Health</li> </ul>
1:25 PM - 1:30 PM	Call to Action	Dr. Saia Ma'u Piukala, Regional Director, WHO Western Pacific Region
1:30 - 1:35 PM	Closing Remarks	Minister Jennifer Carroll Macneill, Minister of Health, Ireland
1:35-1:40 PM	Photo Opportunity	
1:40-1:50 PM	Networking	



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**Dr. Teodoro Herbosa** is the Health Secretary of the Philippines, who also served as undersecretary from 2010 to 2015. His noteworthy achievements include making healthcare accessible to everyone in achieving Universal Health Care.

Among the significant projects he led are the upgrading of public hospitals through Health Facilities Enhancement Funds and Public-Private Partnerships, as well as the developing the National eHealth Strategic Framework Plan, ensuring top-notch information management.

Secretary Herbosa, who holds expertise in Trauma Surgery and Disaster Medicine, pioneered Fellowship programs at the University of the Philippines for Trauma Surgery and the Residency Program in Emergency Medicine. Notably, he has held several international posts as he was a professor of Emergency Medicine at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

He established the Center for Research in Emergency Medicine and led international efforts, including roles at Johns Hopkins University and the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine. His contributions extend to the World Health Organization's Safe Surgery initiative.

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**Mr. Amine Tehraoui** was appointed Minister of Health and Social Protection by His Majesty King Mohammed VI on October 23, 2024. His appointment reflects a career built on economic expertise, public service, and strategic leadership.

Born in 1976, Mr. Tehraoui graduated from Sciences Po Paris and holds a Master's degree in Finance as well as a Bachelor's degree in Chinese Language and Literature. He began his career in economic consulting in China, then joined the investment bank Attijari Finances Corp., where he led major privatization, M&A, and IPO transactions, contributing to the growth of Morocco's capital markets.

In 2007, he was appointed Chief of Staff to the Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, where he helped design and implement two national strategies: the Green Morocco Plan and the Halieutis Plan.

He later became CEO of a leading private group in the retail and commercial real estate sectors, and served on the boards of several institutional companies. Building on this experience, he co-founded an independent investment bank operating in Morocco and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. Tehraoui's career bridges public policy and private enterprise, with a constant focus on supporting Morocco's economic development.

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## Dr. Kenneth Ronquillo

Oversees health policy development, workforce management, performance monitoring, and international health cooperation. He specialized in health reforms, completing courses at the World Bank Institute, Harvard School of Public Health, and Semmelweis University. A champion of Universal Health Care (UHC) in the Philippines, he helped shape the Implementing Rules of the UHC Act and co-authored *Universal Health Care in the Philippines: From Policy to Practice*. As a key leader in the Department of Health, he guides UHC system development. Dr. Ronquillo convenes the Philippine HRH Network and led the Philippine Human Resources for Health Master Plan 2020-2040. He is an active member of the Asia Pacific Action Alliance on HRH and was recently appointed by the World Health Organization as co-chair of the Expert Advisory Group on the Global Code of Practice for International Recruitment of Health Personnel.



## Dr. Saia Ma'u Piukala

is the WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific and the first Pacific islander to hold this position. Nominated in October 2023 and appointed in January 2024, he took office on 1 February 2024. A surgeon, politician, and public health leader, Dr. Piukala has nearly 30 years of experience across Tonga and the Pacific. He champions multisectoral collaboration to address noncommunicable diseases, climate change, universal health coverage, and emerging infectious diseases. He has advocated for youth health, tobacco control, safe surgery, and disaster preparedness. Before joining WHO, he was Tonga's Minister of Health and a Member of Parliament. He also served as Vice-Chair of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, chaired the Pacific Health Ministers meeting in 2023, and was a WHO Executive Board member from 2019 to 2022. He was a Commissioner for WHO's Independent High-Level Commission on NCDs from 2018 to 2020.



**Dr. Jennifer Carroll MacNeill** is the Minister for Health. She was appointed to this role on 23 January 2025. Before this, she served as Minister for European Affairs & Defence since April 2024. Dr. Carroll MacNeill previously served as Minister of State in the Department for Finance with special responsibility for Financial Services, Credit Unions and Insurance.

Minister Carroll MacNeill was elected as a TD for the Dún Laoghaire constituency in the 2020 General Election. She served on a number of Oireachtas Committees including the Public Accounts Committee, the Justice Committee and the Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. She was also a member of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly.

Before entering elected politics, Minister Carroll MacNeill qualified as a Solicitor and Barrister. She holds a PhD in public policy where her research interest was in political institutions and the judiciary.

Minister Carroll MacNeill has worked as a lawyer in the public service, both within the Oireachtas as Legal Adviser in the Office of the Leader of Fine Gael and within Government as Special Adviser in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, in the Department of Justice and Equality & in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

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## Member States



### Dr. Roland Jopp

has more than 20 years of experience in Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Government. After working as an Advisor in the Federal Chancellery and as Head of Division for European Health Policy, he spent four years at the German Embassy in Poland as Attaché for Labor and Social Affairs before taking up his current position as Head of Division of Skilled Labour Migration in 2023.

### Ms. Rachel Kenna

is the Government Chief Nursing Officer in Ireland. Through the Chief Nurse's role, Ms. Kenna has developed and implemented nursing and midwifery policy. In addition, she was instrumental in facilitating the roll out of the vaccination programme during the Covid-19 pandemic and the development of population health screening policy. In addition, under the Chief Nurse's leadership, policies related to safe staffing and advanced practice have been implemented nationally.

Her portfolio also includes patient safety policy and planning and is responsible for guidance, audit and supporting legislation in this area. Under Ms. Kenna's leadership, she has developed a strategic workforce plan that informs the roll out of Sláintecare. Rachel is also a member of the Five Nations' Chief Nurses' Working Group (Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland).





## Mr. Zniber Adil

is the Director of Human Resources and the Head of the Personnel Management Division of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

Mr. Adil earned his Doctorate in Health Law in Mohammed V University, a public university in Rabat, in 2022.

Mr. Adil also earned his Certificate in Legal and Regulatory Studies, Certificate in Project Management, and Certificate in Conflict Management at the Institute of Public Administration in Saudi Arabia in 2015.

## Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie

is the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Jamaica. She is well known for her leadership through the COVID-19 Pandemic where she demonstrated competence in technical knowledge, effective team management and strategic communication.

Aside from navigating epidemics and pandemics, Dr. Bisasor-McKenzie has developed and championed the Primary Health Care Reform and Secondary Care Model for Jamaica. She is driving considerable transformation in the health sector towards building a resilient health system that provides quality and comprehensive care for all.

She continues to represent the Ministry of Health & Wellness and by extension, the country, at the local, regional and international level and has made several presentations globally. She serves on several boards and is the Chair of several health committees including the Central Health Committee and the Quarantine Authority.



## Non-State Actor



### Dr. Ashok Philip

is a past president of the Malaysian Medical Association. During his term he engaged with the Malaysian Ministry of Health to try and mitigate the unusual challenges junior doctors in the government sector faced. Despite the best efforts of the Malaysian Medical Association, the situation has not significantly improved, and we are now seeing potential students turning away from medicine, while many new doctors seek alternative employment or migrate to other countries. Dr. Philip maintains close communication with the Malaysian Medical Association as they continue their efforts to reform the healthcare system.

## Health and Care Worker representative

### Dr. Uche Ralph-Opara

is a clinician and global health leader with nearly two decades of experience designing and implementing impactful health and development programs across multiple countries. Her work spans infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, TB), reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH), nutrition and health systems strengthening.

Dr. Ralph-Opara currently serves as the Chief Health Officer at Project HOPE, where she oversees the organization's global health program portfolio and strategy. Since joining in 2021, she has held several leadership roles, including Nigeria Country Director and Deputy Regional Director for Africa, driving major programmatic growth in areas such as HIV, NCDs, and maternal and child health across multiple countries. She is passionate about strengthening frontline health systems and championing equitable access to quality care in underserved communities.





### Mr. Jim Campbell

is the Director, Health Workforce at the World Health Organization. He oversees the development and implementation of evidence and tools to support countries in the education, employment and retention of the health and care workforce in pursuit of global health security, universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. His portfolio includes WHO's Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, the joint WHO, ILO, OECD *Working for Health* partnership to implement recommendations of the UN High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth, and the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel. He oversees collaborative networks and partnerships with academia, civil society, government institutions, professional associations, and unions, with particular focus on data exchange, digital technologies/AI and equality for women and youth. Jim is a graduate of the University of Bristol and the University of Leeds, and an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Public

Health and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He has published extensively, is on the Editorial Board of the Human Resources for Health Journal and is a guest lecturer for post-graduate health and MBA programs worldwide.



### Dr. Vanessa Kerry

is a critical care physician and co-founder/CEO of Seed Global Health, a non-profit dedicated to strengthening health systems and workforce development for economic growth and equity. At Harvard, she directs the Global Health and Climate Policy program in the Department of Environmental Health and serves as core faculty at the Center for Climate, Health and Global Environment (C-CHANGE). She also leads the Global Public Policy program at Mass General and is the World Health Organization's Special Envoy for Climate Change and Health. Dr. Kerry's research spans health workforce, climate change, and global health security, including crisis response collaborations with NATO. She has taught on the intersection of health, economy, and security at Harvard and Yale and has spoken at key global forums, including the UN, WHO, World Economic Forum, and Women Leaders in Global Health conferences.

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Accelerating action on the global health and care workforce by 2030

Draft decision proposed by Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Croatia, Germany, Jamaica, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Thailand and Ukraine



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