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Événement traduit en français  
International Sign Language Interpretation



**Friday, 11 December, 2020**

## **Media Advisory**

**Virtual Summit to include major commitments from countries from Global South and donors from Global North to protect the health of women, children and adolescents during COVID-19 and beyond**

### **WHAT:**

On **Friday, 11 December, 2020**, partners from across the globe will gather online for the ***Lives in the Balance, Improving the health of women, children and adolescents through Universal Health Coverage*** virtual summit. They will take stock of how COVID-19 has affected progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), launch new commitments towards improving the health of women, children and adolescents, and galvanize a participatory approach from all stakeholders to ensure we can 'do better' during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

The summit builds on the very successful [Lives in the Balance: A COVID-19 Summit](#), organized by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) and CORE group on 1-2 July 2020, which called on global leaders to commit to PMNCH's [seven-point action plan](#) for improving and increasing investment in health systems and social protection policies for women, children and adolescents as the world rebuilds in the wake of the pandemic.

Up to 2,000 delegates are expected to participate, including representatives from country governments, business leaders, researchers, health care providers and community representatives. Together, they will reflect on progress towards achieving UHC and improving the health of women,

children and adolescents, share lessons about what has and hasn't worked during the pandemic, and act together to realize the [United Nations High-Level Declaration on Universal Health Coverage \(2019\)](#) and the [PMNCH Call to Action on COVID-19 \(2020\)](#).

Several countries from the Global South, and donor countries and a private foundation from the Global North, will make commitments to provide continued and enhanced support for improving the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents during this period of health crisis and through the recovery phase as the world looks to rebuild its health systems more robustly.

#### **WHO:**

This half-day summit is being jointly hosted by **PMNCH, UHC2030** and **CORE group**, and is being staged to mark **Universal Health Coverage Day** on Saturday, 12 December, which calls upon all nations to provide affordable, quality health care for all of their citizens. The theme of this year's day is "*Protect Everyone*", putting emphasis on making sure no one - and in particular no woman, child or adolescent - is left behind.

**Lives in the Balance** includes the launch of the following keynote reports and initiatives:

- **New country commitments to the PMNCH COVID-19 Call to Action**
- **State of commitment to universal health coverage: synthesis report, 2020**
- **Updated COVID knowledge resources including digital advocacy toolkits**

#### **SUMMIT SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

**Rt Hon Helen Clark**  
Former Prime Minister  
of New Zealand and  
Board Chair of PMNCH

**Graca Machel**  
Founder and Chair,  
Graca Machel Trust and  
the Foundation for  
Community Development

**Loyce Pace**  
Executive Director, Global  
Health Council, and  
Member of the Biden-Harris  
Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board

**Abelone Melesse (Performer),**  
UNICEF Goodwill  
Ambassador, Ethiopia

**Gro Harlem Brundtland**  
Global Pandemic  
Preparedness Monitoring  
Board Co-Chair; Former  
Prime Minister, Norway;  
Former Director-General,  
WHO

**Dr Agnes Soucat**  
Director for Health Systems  
Governance and Financing,  
WHO

**Dr Githinji Gitahi**  
Group CEO, Amref Health  
Africa, and Co-Chair of  
UHC2030

**Danielle Mullings**  
Tech 4 Health Young  
Expert, Region of the  
Americas

**Special Video Address By:**  
**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
WHO Director-General

**Claudia López,**  
Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia.

#### **WHEN:**

**8-11AM EDT/2-5PM CET, Friday, 11 December, 2020, via Zoom and Livestream**  
(with simultaneous sign language interpretation and French / Spanish translation)

**TAKE PART:**

**Register to participate [here](#)**

As a registered journalist, you will be able to take part in proceedings, receive updates, media releases and statements, and bid for interviews with key speakers and delegates.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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