

## Keynote speakers

### Alian Li



In the position of Assistant Director-General of the Universal Health Coverage, Healthier Populations Division, Dr Ailan Li oversees WHO's efforts to promote better health and well-being through interventions relating to the environmental, social, and economic determinants of health, including climate change, tobacco control, chemical safety, road safety, food systems and nutrition, physical activity, air pollution and radiation. The work will be carried out through a One Health approach.

Dr Li served as the WHO Representative to the Kingdom of Cambodia between 2019 and 2023. Prior to this, she worked as the Regional Emergency Director for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme in the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific and before that as Director of the Division of Health Security and Emergencies in the same Office. Before joining WHO, Dr Li was an Associate Professor at the School of Public Health, Peking University.

### Michael Mlynar



Dr. Michal Mlynár (Slovakia) is a seasoned diplomat and educator with almost 30 years of experience in senior global assignments. Until April 2023, he was Slovakia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Prior to that, Mr. Mlynár served as Director General for International Organizations, Development Cooperation, and Humanitarian Aid at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. He was also Slovakia's Ambassador in Nairobi and served as the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat and the President of its Governing Council. He holds PhD and MA degrees from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, and also studied in the UK and the USA. Mr. Mlynár served as Acting Executive Director of UN-Habitat from January to August 2024.

## Hanan Balkhy



Dr Hanan Balkhy was appointed WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean by the WHO Executive Board in January 2024. She took office on 1 February 2024.

Dr Balkhy was previously Assistant Director-General for Antimicrobial Resistance at WHO headquarters. Prior to this, she was Executive Director for Infection Prevention and Control, Ministry of National Guard, Saudi Arabia. She led the Gulf Cooperation Council Centre for Infection Control and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Infection Prevention and Control and Antimicrobial Resistance, Saudi Arabia.

A graduate of King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia, Dr Balkhy completed her paediatric residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, United States of America. She later completed a paediatric infectious diseases fellowship with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Case Western Reserve University, USA.

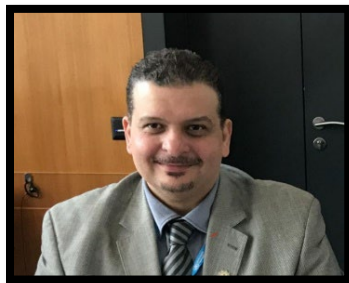
## Panel 1

### Abdelaziz Derouiche



Mr Abdelaziz is the President of the Council of the Prefecture of Rabat and President of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of the Councils of Prefectures and Provinces. Mr Abdelaziz has a degree in “Business Economics” and an Advanced higher education diploma (DESA) in “Human Resources Management and Skills Engineering”, He was the Chief of Staff of the Minister of Employment and Vocational Training and Advisor to the Cabinet of the Minister of Employment and Vocational Training.

### Mohammed Khashoggi



Dr. Mohammed Khashoggi is Consultant in Family Medicine, with over 30 years of experience in Health Promotion. He serves as General Director of the Healthy Cities Program and as the Director of the Collaborating Center with the World Health Organization for Healthy Cities at the Public Health Agency within the Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Khashoggi is a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP) in the UK and actively participates in various national and regional committees. His contributions include membership in the GCC Healthy Cities Council, involvement in the working team for the preparation of the G20 Summit 2020 within the Ministry of Health, and participation in the National Committee for School Health in Saudi Arabia.

### Dr Amaal Hussain Jassem Al Yahia



Dr Amal Hussain Al Yahia is a public health doctor with more than 30 years of experience in health promotion. She is currently the Head of the Healthy Cities Office at the Ministry of Health and Rapporteur of the Committee for the National Program to Combat Smoking. She is also the Kuwait focal point for tobacco control for the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region and the Kuwait member of the Gulf Cooperation Council Joint Committee for Healthy Cities.

## Mazen Malkawi



Mazen is Regional Advisor on Environmental Health, at the World Health Organization (WHO), Eastern Mediterranean Region Office (EMRO)

Mr. Malkawi has served since 1988 at different positions in the WHO, The Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, Centre for Environmental Health Action (CEHA).

Currently he is the Regional Advisor/ team lead on climate change, health and environment Duties include Managing the environmental health exposures program focusing on climate change, air pollution, and chemical safety. CEHA also manages other environmental health issues including food safety, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and occupational health

Mr. Malkawi participated in 300++ International, regional and national meetings on different environmental health aspects, and published 29 articles and chapters in refereed journals and books.

## Panel 2

### Claudia López



Claudia López served as Mayor of Bogotá from January 2020 until December 2023. As Bogotá's first female and first openly LGBTQ+ Mayor, she emphasized environmental, social, anti-corruption, and Care issues. López additionally served as a Senator of the Republic of Colombia between 2014 and 2018 and ran as vice-presidential candidate in the 2018 Colombian presidential election. As a senator, she set an example in the fight against corruption, with results never seen before, and became a prominent figure in the political arena. The public recognizes her tenacity and enormous capacity for collective action, which led her to make her way into academia and public service, becoming the first woman to be elected by popular vote to Colombia's second most important office. Claudia López is a finance and international relations graduate from Universidad Externado de Colombia, holds a master's degree in public administration and urban policy from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in political science from Northwestern University. Currently is a Harvard ALI fellow.

### Nicholas You



Nicholas You is a veteran urban specialist. He served as the senior policy and planning advisor to UN-Habitat and as the manager of the Habitat II Conference held in Istanbul in 1996. He is the founder and honorary chairman of the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign Steering Committee and, a former thought leader for the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Siemens, ENGIE and the Global Cities Business Alliance. He served for several years as an adjunct to the Center for Livable Cities, Singapore. He is currently the Executive Director of the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation, co-Chair of the Open Green City Lab in Shenzhen, and member of the SDG Urban Finance Commission. He regularly advises central and local governments, technology companies and civil society organisations on urban sustainability, urban governance and urban innovation and has written and co-authored key policy papers for the U20/G20 and BRICS+. More recently he has been advising cities and regional authorities on the potential contribution of the metaverse to sustainable development.

## Kristie Daniel



Kristie is the Director of the Livable Cities Program at HealthBridge, where she leads efforts to support urban health by providing technical assistance to local partners worldwide. Her work focuses on creating healthier, more livable cities through collaboration and strategic guidance.

Before joining HealthBridge, Kristie served as a Senior Policy Analyst at a local Canadian health department, working closely with local government, planners, and engineers to address health issues related to urban planning and the built environment. Kristie holds a Master of Public Health, with a focus on community health and policy.

## Atsani Ariobowo



Atsani is the Director of Child and Youth Health for the FIA Foundation based in London, acting as the lead for the Child Health Initiative. Before his role with the Foundation, he was the Manager of Global Road Safety Projects with the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, managing Fondation Botnar's child road safety challenge, a global safer and sustainable mobility programme. Previous to this Atsani was the lead for VicRoads International, the road authority for the State Government of Victoria in Australia, responsible for winning and implementing international projects funded by multi-lateral banks such as the WB, ADB and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Atsani also has had professional experience in the consulting and energy industry. He holds a Master of Commerce from Melbourne University and a double degree in International Trade and Management.



## Reflections and way forward

### Graham Alabaster



Dr Graham Alabaster is a public health engineer by profession and is UN-Habitat's Director of the Geneva office, where he represents the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. He is responsible for liaison with Geneva-based member states missions and international organisations. He holds a BSc (Hons.) in Chemical Engineering and a PhD in Civil Engineering. After an early career in academic research in the UK and Africa, and a period in industry, he joined UN-Habitat in 1992. Since then, he has looked after many different portfolios including: Slum upgrading, environmental infrastructure; health and environment; Water, Sanitation and waste management. In addition, he has been responsible for developing relationships with the regional development banks and the private sector. During this period, he has been on secondment to both the World Health Organisation (WHO), and UNHCR, where he has applied his expertise to preventative health in urban settings and humanitarian environments. The work has usually included both policy advice to members states and project design and implementation. He was responsible for the development of the UN-system wide monitoring mechanism for SDG 6 on Water, and also the co-custodian of indicator 6.3.1 on wastewater. He is currently the co-chair of the RBM End Malaria Now, Multi-sectoral working group, and is a Lancet Commissioner for the build-out of Aedes-borne diseases in cities. In addition, he represents UN-Habitat on many inter-agency bodies and advisory groups. He has also produced a variety of publications including global reports and technical papers in journals. He has over 35 years- experience in the urban sector and has worked in over 50 countries in all regions of the world.

## Moderators

### Nick Banatvala



Nick is the head of the Task Force Secretariat. Previously, Nick was Head of Global Affairs at the Department of Health in England and before that worked at the UK Department for International Development where he worked in Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Middle East before heading up the department working on health systems and global health partnerships. Prior to that Nick worked with the UK aid agency Merlin on a number of humanitarian and development programmes. Nick trained in paediatrics and infectious diseases before doing public health in the UK and the USA. Nick holds honorary appointments at Manchester and Cambridge universities as well as Imperial College, London.

### Samar El-Feky



Dr Samar ElFeky is the Regional Adviser for Health Promotion and Social Determinants of Health in Department of Healthier Populations, WHO , Eastern Mediterranean Region. She is a Medical Doctor with advanced qualifications in Public Health from the University of Liverpool, UK, and Health System Research from Johns Hopkins University, USA. She is a prominent public health expert with extensive experience in WHO/EMRO, focusing on health promotion, wellbeing, care for older populations, Social Determinants of Health, Health in All Policies (HiAP), health literacy, and community engagement.

Dr. ElFeky leads the Healthy Cities initiative in the region, overseeing various healthy settings such as age-friendly cities, healthy universities, health-promoting schools, workplaces, villages, and markets. She manages the Regional Healthy Cities Network and is responsible for introducing, monitoring, and evaluating the Healthy Cities Programme across countries including Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, and the UAE.

### Nagwa Lachine

To follow

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