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Welcome to the February edition of our newsletter!

This month, we encounter a rapidly *shifting* global health landscape influenced by **geopolitical** actions redefining priorities and strategies worldwide.

Inside, you'll discover a wealth of resources on the latest developments in health and foreign policy—from transformative policy shifts to emerging collaborative initiatives across all regions—with exclusive content in Spanish, Portuguese, and French highlighting diverse.

Join us as we explore how health contributes to advancing equity and addressing global challenges

EVENTS

Driving from Kaffee Klatsch via Appia to Wehrkunde



@ Health Diplomacy Alliance / kataxl

This February has witnessed several high-level global meetings that are already shaping policy debates. Even though the **World Economic Forum** [“Collaboration for the Intelligent Age”](#) concluded in the month of January, there were several initiatives and work focused on sustainable growth and innovation to tackle global inequality and climate change with the current geopolitics. In Geneva, the [WHO Executive Board](#) met from February 4 to 11, with the Programme Budget Advisory Committee playing a key role in linking strategic decisions to the upcoming World Health Assembly to secure flexible funding for emerging health threats and the exit of two PAHOs members USA and Argentina. Meanwhile, from February 14 to 16 in Munich, over 60 heads of state, ministers, and senior officials gathered at the [61st Munich Security Conference](#) to discuss enhancing European defense, preserving Ukrainian sovereignty, and adapting transatlantic partnerships amid a shifting change in global order.

Read more

PAST EVENTS:

- [Forum on Democracy & Peace](#) - 16-19 February, Berlin
- [48th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community \(CARICOM\)](#) - 19-21 February, Bridgetown
- [58th Human Right Council Session](#) - 24 February - 4 April, Geneva

- [FICS Summit 2025](#) – 25 February – 2 March, Cape Town, South Africa
- [AMR Conference – Novel Antimicrobials & AMR Diagnostics](#) – 25–26 February, Basel
- [20th Anniversary of FCTC](#) – 27 February, Geneva – Global

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- [Africa Health Agenda International Conference](#) – 2–5 March, Kigali
- [VIII Congreso Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Salud Global](#) – 4–7 March, Cuernavaca
- [World Wildlife Day](#) – 3 March, Global
- [World Sustainable Development Summit 2025](#) – 5–7 March, New Delhi
- [International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness](#) – 5 March, Global
- [International Women's Day](#) – 8 March, Global
- [Forum on Sustainable Energy for All](#) – 12–13 March, Bridgetown
- [UN Development Cooperation Forum 2025](#) – 12–13 March, New York
- [Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination](#)– 21–27 March, Global
- [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#) – 21 March, Global
- [World Down Syndrome Day](#) – 21 March, Global
- [World Water Day](#) – 22 March, Global
- [World Meteorological Day](#) – 23 March, Global
- [2° Global Meeting on Skin-related neglected tropical diseases](#) – 24 – 27 March, Geneva
- [World Tuberculosis Day](#) – 24 March, Global
- [Global Science Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy](#) – 25 – 26 March, Paris
- [International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade](#) – 25 March, Global
- [International Day of Zero Waste](#) – 30 March, Global
- [8° Foro de LAC- Desarrollo Sostenible](#) – 31 March – 4 April, Santiago, Chile

HEALTH DIPLOMACY YOUTH NETWORK

The Bureau of the Network

Antonio Marques Pinto and **Rustam Shariq Mujtaba** have been elected as Vice-Chair and External Relations Lead respectively for the Health Diplomacy Youth Network Bureau for the term 2025–2026. The bureau will coordinate the network toward implementing the programme of work and continue amplifying youth voices in global health.

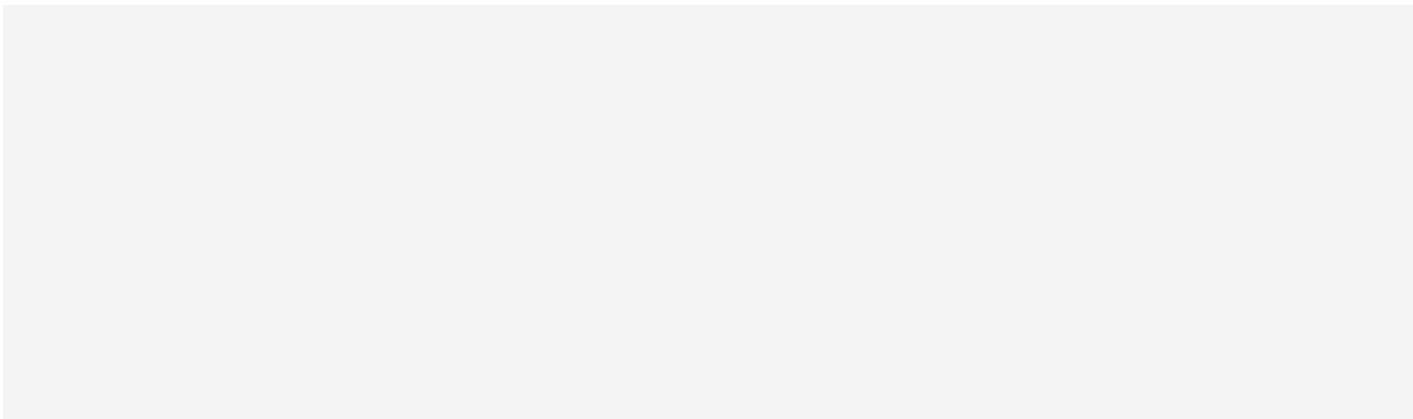
MEET OUR MEMBERS

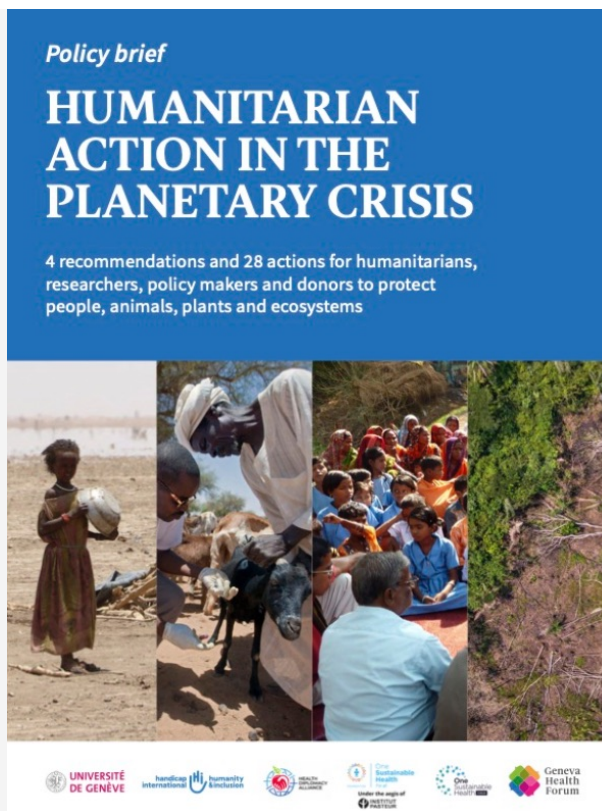


The graphic includes the Health Diplomacy Alliance logo (a globe with hands) in the top left. A quote in a blue box reads: "If we are to save the future, we should talk to those who hold the future between their hand." -Ruba Haddadin. To the right is a circular portrait of Ruba Haddadin. The background has decorative blue and green curved lines.

JOIN THE NETWORK

RESOURCES





The Health Diplomacy Alliance (HDA) is honored to be a co-author of *Humanitarian Action in the Planetary Crisis*. A pivotal paper addressing the intersection of global health, environmental crisis, and escalating humanitarian needs. Our Executive Director, Katherine Urbáez served as a lead co-author, together with **Valeria Marino, Isabelle Bolon, Davide Ziveri, Jakob Zinsstag, Karl Blanchet, Rafael Ruiz de Castañeda**, contributing alongside a team of top academics and humanitarian experts.

As climatic disasters and environmental degradation worsen, disadvantaged groups confront increased health risks, including food insecurity, displacement, and disease. This report defies conventional wisdom by proposing health diplomacy as a key component of crisis response. We propose transformative routes to protect human and planetary health by combining environmental stewardship, equity-centered policy, and cross-border collaboration.

The report also underlines that creating systemic resilience necessitates reframing aid via a health-focused lens, with a focus on prevention and long-term adaptation. It identifies chances to bridge humanitarian and environmental goals, ensuring that vulnerable groups are not left behind, through extensive case studies and strong policy frameworks. As co-authors, HDA emphasizes the importance of global health partnerships in facilitating this crucial transformation.

[Read more](#)

OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- [Maximizing Regional Co-operation and Local Solutions for Climate-Health Mitigation and Adaptation](#) by Katherine Urbáez
- [The Human Variome Project: Global Coordination in Data Sharing](#) by Casimiro Vizzini, MD
- [Sustainability & Resilience in Pacific Island Health Systems](#) by CAPRI
- [De dónde viene y a dónde va el financiamiento para la Salud Mundial](#) de Germán Velásquez, South Center
- [Accelerating access to human genomics for public health: perspectives from the Western Pacific region](#) by Park, Kidong et al.
- [A Rapid Review of Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Health Systems Case Studies in Six Western Pacific Countries](#) by Patricia Nayna Schwerdtle et al.
- [Cardiovascular disease in the Americas: the epidemiology of cardiovascular disease and its risk factors](#) by Phillip Joseph et al.
- [The Role of BRICS Leadership in Forging Climate and Health Strategies for a One-Health World](#) by Oomen C. Kurian et al.

NEWS, ARTICLES, PODCASTS AND MORE

20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FCTC

In commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) entering into force, our Executive Director, Katherine Urbáez, engaged in a thought-provoking conversation with **Prof. Haik Nikogosian**, the First Head and Head Emeritus of the FCTC Secretariat. Together, they reflected on the successes achieved and the challenges that remain for the framework.



Listen here

OTHER NEWS:

- [Soberanía y OMS: transformer sin renunciar](#) por Bruno Ané
- [Regional Director's Keynote Address – Leveraging Technological Innovation for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention: Insights from Asia-Pacific](#) by WHO SEARO
- [Conferência de Segurança de Munique à sombra de Donald Trump](#) por Nina Werkhäuser
- [Nigeria joins BRICS as a partner country](#) by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Brazil
- [EUA e OMS: Um Retrocesso para a Saúde Global](#) por Mário André Macedo
- [Tracking every rupiah: Indonesia's bold step towards universal health coverage](#) by Feby Oldfisra
- [Toxic air threatens children's lives across East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF warns](#) by Vibhu Mishra

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