



We're thrilled to launch the first edition of the **Health Diplomacy Alliance** Newsletter!

Inside, you will discover resources for the latest developments and insights in health, foreign policy and related areas – across all regions. We will feature key events, impactful initiatives, and thought-provoking perspectives—including content in Spanish, Portuguese, and French—to spotlight diverse voices working in health diplomacy.

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

KATHERINE URBAEZ

Founder & Executive Director, Health Diplomacy Alliance

EVENTS



156th session of the WHO Executive Board

The [156th session of the WHO Executive Board](#) will take place in Geneva from the 3rd to the 11th of February 2025 and will address key global health challenges. Major topics include preparations for the 2025 High-Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs), strategies to defeat meningitis by 2030, and the adoption of the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy (2025–2034). Discussions will also cover strengthening health financing, regulating the digital marketing of breast milk substitutes, and addressing health impacts related to lung and kidney diseases as well as the effects of nuclear weapons.

Côte d'Ivoire, supported by Nigeria, Togo, and Micronesia, has presented an agenda item and resolution demonstrating a unified commitment to addressing the global public health burden of skin diseases. The Health Diplomacy Alliance has actively worked alongside a [coalition](#) of patient organizations, healthcare professionals, academia, and civil society to prioritize skin diseases within Universal Health Coverage, aiming to accelerate efforts to reduce their incidence, prevalence, morbidity, and mortality.

[Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- [Geneva Environmental Network High-Level 25th Anniversary Celebration](#) 20th January - Geneva, Switzerland
- [World Economic Forum Annual Meeting](#) 20th -24th January - Davos, Switzerland
- [What does biodiversity have to do with public health?](#) - 23rd January - Webinar
- [International Day of Clean Energy](#) - 26th January - Global
- [Foro Económico Internacional América Latina y el Caribe 2025](#) - 29th -30th January - Ciudad Panamá, Panamá
- [World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day](#) - 30th January - Global
- [World Wetlands Day](#) - 2nd February - Global
- [World Cancer Day](#) - 4th February - Global
- [International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation](#) - 6th February - Global
- [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#)- 11th February 2025 - Global
- [41st Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board](#) - 29th - 31 January Geneva, Switzerland
- [78th Meeting of CITES](#) - 3rd - 8th February - Geneva, Switzerland
- [Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Conference](#) - 4th -5th February - Online

HEALTH DIPLOMACY YOUTH NETWORK



The Health Diplomacy Youth Network is an initiative that brings together young leaders committed to advancing global health through diplomacy and policy, officially launched on the 20th of September 2024, parallel to the Summit of the Future Action Days. The network comprises members from all regions specialized in public health, pharmacy, health financing, and policy, working on crucial topics like malaria, antimicrobial resistance, disaster management, health systems strengthening.

Learn about this month's initiatives by members of the network

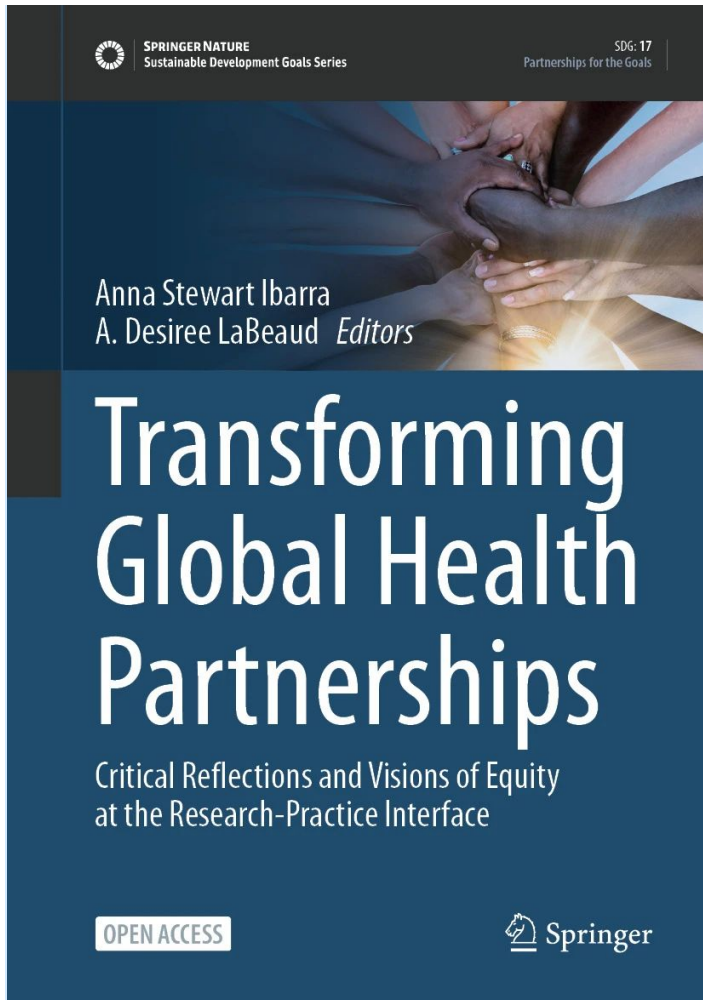
- Bill Whilson A Baljon, has published a study that evaluates the knowledge, perceived capability, and preparedness of graduating BS Pharmacy students in Metro Manila to counsel patients on diabetes management devices. [Read article](#)
- 劉憬勳 Ching-Hsun “Walter” Liu, has shared the work that the Federation of Public Health Students Association in Taiwan has composed “As Usual”, an HIV advocacy song developed by over 100 healthcare students in Taiwan in partnership with the National CDC and hospitals. The song seeks to eliminate the stigma surrounding HIV through music, creating a lasting impact that transcends borders. [Watch the video](#)

JOIN THE NETWORK

RESOURCES

In this edition,

we feature the open-access textbook Transforming Global Health Partnerships: Critical Reflections and Visions of Equity at the Research-Practice Interface, edited by **Anna Stewart Ibarra** and **A. Desiree LaBeaud**. It is part of the Sustainable Development Goals Series. With contributions from over 90 authors across 26 countries, it examines the global health landscape through themes such as decolonization, ethics, gender, systems approach, transdisciplinary science, Planetary Health, One Health, and communication. Covering historical contexts, case studies, and future visions, the book



emphasizes equitable and impactful partnerships among researchers, community leaders, and policymakers to address global health challenges.

[Learn more](#)

OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- [The AMR scenario in Malaysia: A review of current trends, perspectives, and strategic action](#)
- [Book Chapter: India's Vaccine Diplomacy to Southeast Asia in the context of 'Act East Policy'](#)
- [From strategic autonomy to strategic partnership: EU-India relations in health diplomacy](#)

NEWS, ARTICLES, PODCASTS AND MORE



Following its recent G20 presidency, Brazil has assumed the BRICS presidency for 2025, aiming to enhance economic cooperation among member nations and address global challenges such as climate change. BRICS has expanded to include Indonesia as a full member, reflecting the bloc's growing influence in international affairs.

Brazil's presidency will focus on facilitating trade and investment, regulating artificial intelligence, addressing climate change, and strengthening public health collaboration among member countries. The upcoming BRICS summit is scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro in July 2025



Manuel Elkin Patarroyo, inmunólogo colombiano, dejó un legado perdurable en la ciencia al desarrollar la primera vacuna sintética contra la malaria. Su trabajo pionero demostró la viabilidad de inducir inmunidad protectora contra esta enfermedad, estableciendo estándares para la evaluación de vacunas y allanando el camino para desarrollos posteriores que han salvado miles de vidas. Además, su dedicación a la formación de futuros científicos en su país ha inspirado a generaciones de investigadores comprometidos con la salud pública y la innovación científica.

OTHER NEWS:

- [International Federation of Medical Students Association: Youth in Action combating AMR across APAC during WAAW](#)

- [Trump Is Quitting the Paris Agreement. Poor Countries Should, Too](#)
- [Fundación Fontilles desarrollará en 2025 19 proyectos de cooperación sanitaria en Asia, África y América: India, Mozambique, República Democrática del Congo, Malawi, Brasil y Bolivia](#)
- [África y América: India, Mozambique, República Democrática del Congo, Malawi, Brasil y Bolivia.](#)
- [Indonesia officially becomes first Southeast Asian member of BRICS](#)
- [Podcast on the state of UHC in Southeast Asia and the Pacific post-pandemic](#)
- [South Africa to host the G20 Summit in Johannesburg in November 2025](#)

RECAP OF 2024



In 2024, our Alliance actively engaged in discussions and initiatives on global health challenges

and national level, as well as advocacy efforts in major events such as the UNGA High-Level Meeting in New York, the World Food Forum in Rome, the 4th Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Jeddah, the Forum Galien, and the One Sustainable Forum in Dakar, while also contributing to various regional and national forums and initiatives

Key Highlights:

- Prioritized **AMR** as a global health threat, from publishing a [Policy Brief](#) to a strategic plan to political engagement on AMR beyond 2024, video campaign "[I Go Blue for AMR](#)" and hybrid event "[From Jeddah to Geneva: Multilateralism Addressing Antimicrobial Resistance](#)" during the World AMR Awareness Week 2024 to promote coordinated global action.
- Promote collaborative discussions on foreign affairs and health governance, including hosting a webinar related to [Health Diplomacy in War & Conflict](#), a multistakeholder panel that focused on delivering healthcare in crisis and humanitarian settings.
- Continue efforts to [highlight](#) the critical need for global cooperation to ensure that all populations, particularly vulnerable ones, have access to life-saving medical tools as the world faces ongoing and emerging health challenges like antimicrobial resistance.
- Partnership to advocate efforts with a [coalition of organizations](#) for mobilization of Member States' engagement and prioritization of skin diseases in global health discussion and priorities within the World Health Organization and collaborated on a [background document](#) to advocate for policy action in this area.
- Advocated for greater attention by Member States to the intersection of climate change and health, urging action for a Global Action Plan on Health and Climate Change, the need for integrated policies that address climate risks and protect vulnerable populations, ensuring health is central to global climate strategies.

Our Alliance amplified the critical role of diplomacy in shaping health outcomes throughout the formulation and implementation of projects related to sustainability, access to medicines, climate change, and one health.

WAAW 2024

Key Highlights from WAAW 2024

World Awareness AMR Week 2024 Recap

Together, we act Against AMR!



We **united global voices** through **impactful campaigns** and **collaborative events** to spotlight the need for collective action on AMR.



Stay connected and learn more about our work by visiting our website and following us on X, LinkedIn, and Instagram.



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