



PMAC | PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE

2026



Navigating Global Demographic Transition

through Innovative Policy: An Equity-Centered Approach

26 - 31 JANUARY 2026 | BANGKOK, THAILAND

**NAVIGATING GLOBAL DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION
THROUGH INNOVATIVE POLICY: AN EQUITY-CENTERED
APPROACH**

| NAVIGATING GLOBAL DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION THROUGH INNOVATIVE POLICY: AN EQUITY-CENTERED APPROACH

Global demographics are undergoing profound shifts through aging populations, declining fertility rates, evolving migration patterns, youth bulges, and rapid urbanization, which intersect with widening inequalities, economic vulnerabilities, strained health systems, and climate pressures. High-income countries face aging populations and shrinking workforces, while low- and middle-income countries manage growing youth populations requiring expanded infrastructure and employment. Strategic investments in human capital—including education, vocational training, and lifelong learning—alongside infrastructure supporting intergenerational integration can transform these challenges into opportunities for economic growth and inclusive social progress, as demonstrated by East Asia's demographic dividend in the late 20th century.

Aging populations in middle- and high-income countries create labor shortages and economic strain as younger workers support older populations amid rising healthcare costs and pension obligations. Healthcare systems must adapt to increasing non-communicable diseases and long-term care needs, while comprehensive strategies addressing housing, urban planning, and community well-being are essential for supporting aging individuals. Countries like Japan and Singapore offer valuable models through technology-assisted elder care and reskilling programs for older workers. The PMAC 2026 conference aims to identify actionable solutions through life course policies that address needs across all age demographics, showcasing evidence-based case studies that inspire policymakers to implement effective strategies for managing demographic transitions globally.

Sub-Theme 1

Demographic Transitions, Social Equity,
and Population Diversity

SUB-THEME 1

The Plenary Session for Sub-theme 1 addresses global demographic transitions and equity-centered approaches to simultaneous increases in youth and older populations, evolving care systems, and spatial population shifts occurring at varying intensities worldwide. These transitions pressure health and social protection systems, requiring integrated, forward-looking policy responses that address differentiated impacts on vulnerable groups including people with disabilities, migrants, indigenous populations, gender minorities, and informal workers. This session frames subsequent discussions on social welfare systems, demographic dividends, family and community roles, intergenerational equity, and inclusive policies for at-risk groups, while highlighting cross-cutting priorities that demand evidence-based approaches addressing gaps in coverage, affordability, and accessibility.

Objectives

ST1 seeks to establish a high-level framework for five key discussions: (1) Social welfare systems, protection, and fiscal sustainability; (2) Harnessing demographic dividends and silver economy; (3) Role of family, community, and supportive environments; (4) Advancing intergenerational solidarity in an aging world; and (5) Inclusive policies for vulnerable groups. The session emphasizes cross-cutting themes while exploring the essential roles of diverse stakeholders—governments, civil society, communities, private sector, and development partners—in developing and implementing effective solutions to demographic challenges across different populations and contexts.

Sub-Theme 2

Demographic Shifts and Health System Transformation

SUB-THEME 2

Global demographic transitions—including aging populations and declining fertility rates, youth bulges, and complex migration patterns—pose significant challenges to health systems worldwide. These will result in structural changes with around 55 per cent of the world's population living in towns and cities, projected to be 70 per cent by 2050. However, changing demographics will impact health systems if we do not prepare; for example, countries with the most increase in non-communicable diseases, are least prepared to address in terms of their health systems. Investing in health systems will be critical to tackle these challenges. Key issues on demographic transitions relate to changing disease burden, healthcare infrastructure and access, aging population and long-term care, workforce and economic impact, maternal and child health, health policy and financing and technological advancements. In addition, there is a need to think of a life course approach to health and well-being and how health systems can be designed for this purpose. Overall, there is therefore a need for a holistic approach to adapt health systems to respond to the shifts in demographics.

Objectives

The objective of ST2 is to highlight the imperative for inclusive and sustainable health systems that are resilient to shifting demographics, recognizing the need for multi-sectoral, life-course approaches in the context of current global developments, to improve population health and well-being.

This sub-theme, through its plenary and parallel sessions, will examine issues related to how health systems can respond to shifting demographics and focus on topics related to migration of human resources for health, sustainable domestic financing, health service delivery systems that better respond to changing health needs driven by demographic shifts, multisectoral and community based approaches for long-term care and how values shape population policies across different contexts.

Sub-Theme 3

Governing Health for People and Planet: Geopolitics in Flux

SUB-THEME 3

The world faces unprecedented convergence of demographic transitions and global polycrises. Aging populations, youth bulges, migration patterns, and urbanization are reshaping socioeconomic landscapes while intersecting with climate change, geopolitical tensions, economic instability, and technological disruptions. This convergence amplifies systemic risks and widens inequalities across regions and populations. The 2025 Global Risks Report identifies armed conflict as the primary immediate concern, followed closely by climate-driven extreme weather events, illustrating the interconnected nature of today's threats. Recent geopolitical shifts, particularly tensions between major powers, directly impact global health and environmental stability, while technological advancements like AI and digital health systems simultaneously offer solutions and create new divides that governments must navigate with limited resources.

Objectives

ST3 examines the complex interrelationships between geopolitical dynamics, demographic shifts, and planetary health to identify inclusive governance mechanisms promoting equity and sustainability. Specifically, it aims to: (1) Analyze how demographic transitions interact with climate change to reshape global power structures and governance frameworks; (2) Assess planetary health threats as conflict multipliers driving migration and health inequities; (3) Evaluate technology's dual role in demographic governance and health protection; and (4) Develop gender-responsive and youth-inclusive governance strategies that strengthen planetary resilience while addressing intergenerational justice. Particular attention is given to empowering youth—not merely as victims of planetary crises but as essential solution architects—through education, leadership opportunities, and participatory mechanisms that bridge generational divides and accelerate transitions toward climate-resilient societies.

| VENUE AND DATES OF THE CONFERENCE

Centara Grand at Central World Hotel, Bangkok

Monday 26 January 2026 - Tuesday 27 January 2026	Side Meetings
Wednesday 28 January 2026	Field Trip
Thursday 29 January 2026 - Saturday 31 January 2026	Main Conference

| STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

This is a closed, invitation only conference host by the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation, and the Royal Thai Government, together with other international co-hosts. The conference consists of:

1. Pre-conference

- Side meetings
- Field trip

2. Main conference

- Keynote speeches
- Plenary sessions
- Parallel sessions
- Synthesis: Summary and recommendations
- Poster display

| PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Monday 26 January 2026

09:00-17:30	Side Meetings
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Tuesday 27 January 2026

09:00-17:30	Side Meetings
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Wednesday 28 January 2026

09:30-18:00	Field Trip / Art Contest Award Ceremony
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| MAIN CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday 29 January 2026

09:00 - 10:00	Opening Session by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn & Keynote Address
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 12:00	Plenary 0: Navigating Global Demographic Transitions in a Time of Geopolitical Upheaval
12:00 - 13:00	Plenary 1: Demographic Transitions, Social Equity, and Population Diversity
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch / Special Event / Poster Presentation
14:00-16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ PS 1.1: Social Welfare Systems, Social Protection, and Fiscal Sustainability ◦ PS 1.2: Harnessing Demographic Dividends and Silver Economy, and Implication to Health System ◦ PS1.3: The Role of Family, Community, and Supportive Environments Amid Demographic Shifts ◦ PS 1.4: Advancing Intergenerational Solidarity and Equity in an Unsettling World ◦ PS 1.5: No One Left Behind: Inclusive Policies for Vulnerable and At-Risk Groups in an Era of Demographic Change
16:00 - 18:00	Break / Special Event
18:00 - 20:30	Welcome Dinner

Friday 30 January 2026

09:00 - 10:00	Plenary 2: Demographic Shifts and Health System Transformation
10:00 - 10:30	Break / Special Event / Poster Presentation
10:30 - 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ PS 2.1: Navigating Demographic Transitions: Impacts and Implications for the Human Resources for Health ◦ PS 2.2: Securing the Future of Health and Well-Being for All at All Ages: Sustainable Financing Solutions ◦ PS 2.3: Responsive Service Delivery in Shifting Health Needs ◦ PS 2.4: People-Centered Long-Term Care: Promising Multisectoral and Community-Based Approaches ◦ PS 2.5: Diverse Values and Ethics in Designing Population Policies
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch / Special Event / Poster Presentation
13:30 - 14:30	Plenary 3: Governing Health for People and Planet: Geopolitics in Flux
14:30 - 15:00	Break / Special Event / Poster Presentation
15:00 - 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ PS 3.1: Planet, Power, and People: Building Just Transitions Across Generations ◦ PS 3.2: Digital Futures in a Demographic Shift: Technology for Health, Justice, and the Planet. ◦ PS 3.3: Moving Futures: Migration, Labor, and the Health of a Changing Planet ◦ PS 3.4: Peace Under Pressure: Navigating Conflict, Environment, and Population Health ◦ PS 3.5: Generation Now: Youth Leadership at the Nexus of Health, Gender, and the Environment

Saturday 31 January 2026

09:00 - 10:45	Synthesis: Summary, Conclusion & Recommendations
10:45 - 11:30	Closing Session
11:30 - 13:00	Lunch



| KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- **Martha Alter Chen**, Associate, the Mittal South Asia Institute, Harvard University, United States of America

OPENING SESSION

PL 0

**NAVIGATING GLOBAL DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITIONS IN A TIME OF
GEOPOLITICAL UPHEAVAL**

| BACKGROUND

Plenary 0 will act as an “information bridge” between the Special Session - “Future of Global Governance of Health in a Fragmented World” and the main PMAC 2026 Conference -“Navigating Global Demographic Transition” by introducing to the main Conference participants the key observations, conclusions and any call for actions that come out of the Special Session.

| OBJECTIVES

To “prime” the Conference participants on the geopolitical dynamics so that they might explore during the Plenary and Parallel Sessions how these dynamics may impact on navigating the global demographic transitions and identify areas for action

| MODERATOR

- **Dennis Carroll**, Chief Scientist, University Research Co., LLC (URC), United States of America

| KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- **Christopher J.L. Murray**, Director, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), United States of America

| PANELIST

- **Malebona Precious Matsoso**, Director, Health Regulatory Science Platform, Wits Health Consortium, South Africa
- **Keizo Takemi**, Former Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, Japan
- **Gabriel Leung**, Director, Institute of Philanthropy, China
- **Magda Robalo**, President and co-founder, The Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD), Guinea-Bissau

PS 1.1

SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEMS, SOCIAL PROTECTION, AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

| BACKGROUND

In the context of global demographic transitions—marked by aging populations, changing family structures, and increasing inequality—social welfare systems face immense pressure to remain equitable, inclusive, and fiscally sustainable. While some countries have leveraged demographic dividends to expand social protection, others face growing coverage gaps, particularly among informal workers, caregivers, young children, and older adults. Rising healthcare costs, pension obligations, and evolving labor markets further complicate fiscal planning. A life-course and whole-of-society approach is essential to ensure that welfare and protection systems adapt dynamically to population needs. Ensuring the health, well-being, and social inclusion of people across all stages of life—from early childhood to old age—requires resilient, adaptable, and fiscally sustainable systems. This session explores innovative models, emerging challenges, and policy solutions to strengthen social welfare systems across diverse demographic contexts.

| OBJECTIVES

This session explores innovative models, emerging challenges, and policy solutions to strengthen social welfare systems across diverse demographic contexts and to explore how countries can design resilient and equitable social welfare systems that adapt to demographic changes, aging populations, and fiscal pressures—while leveraging innovation, intergenerational approaches, and global cooperation.

Key Issue:

- Aging and welfare pressures
- Life-course investments
- Equity and inclusion
- Innovative financing
- Digital and AI solutions

| MODERATOR

- **Piya Hanvoravongchai**, Associate professor / Senior Consultant, NUS SSHSPH / CMB Foundation, Singapore

| KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- **Hervé Boulhol**, Head of the Pensions and Ageing Unit, OECD, France

| PANELIST

- **Rintaro Mori**, Mayor, Takarazuka City, Japan
- **Aiko Kikkawa**, Senior Economist, Economic Research and Development Impact, Asian Development Bank, Philippines
- **Veerathai Santiprabhob**, Chairman, Thailand Development Research Institute, Thailand

PS 1.2

**HARNESSING DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDENDS AND SILVER ECONOMY, AND
IMPLICATION TO HEALTH SYSTEM**

| BACKGROUND

Over the past century, humanity has witnessed **transformation in population structures across the globe. These shifts are not uniform** - they unfold at varying speeds and stages across different regions, presenting a complex mosaic of opportunities and challenges for governments, societies, and systems. Many nations, particularly in the Global South (e.g., Egypt, India, Nigeria), are experiencing a potential first demographic dividend¹, characterized by a large youth population and the possibility of economic growth if investments in youth health and education are prioritized. Simultaneously, countries across regions like East Asia, Western Europe, and Latin America (e.g., Germany, Netherlands, Chile, Uruguay) are navigating population aging, potentially benefiting from a second demographic dividend² driven by increased savings and human capital accumulation among older cohorts, provided enabling policies are in place. Further along the transition, highly aged societies (e.g., Japan, Europe, USA, China) are exploring a third demographic dividend³ and the burgeoning silver economy, leveraging the continued productivity and consumption of healthy older adults and the industries serving them.

While countries face distinct demographic realities - some grappling with youth bulges, others managing rapid aging - **these differences present valuable opportunities for mutual learning and policy action and innovation.** The notion of multiple demographic dividends encourages a dynamic, shared approach: nations experiencing a first dividend can draw lessons from those that have successfully navigated their demographic transitions, while aging societies can look to younger nations for insights into resilience, intergenerational solidarity, and innovation driven by youthful energy. Rather than a linear path, demographic change unfolds in diverse, context-specific ways. By fostering cross- regional dialogue and collaboration, countries can co-create solutions that respond not only to their own demographic challenges but also contribute to a broader global agenda of inclusive growth, sustainable health systems, and equitable well-being for all age groups.

Thus, beyond exploring the multifaceted challenges and lessons emerging from the different demographic dividends and the evolving silver economy, this session returns to **the core focus of PMAC: transforming health systems in response to demographic change.** It is designed to address the critical intersection of demographic trends and health, with the aim of fostering balanced, equitable, and resilient health systems and health-related industries that meet the needs of all generations.

Central to this transformation is the recognition of health as a foundational driver in realizing the benefits of demographic dividends. Good health across the life course—from maternal and childcare to adolescent well-being, adult productivity, and healthy aging- underpins human capital development and sustainable economic growth. Health systems that are inclusive, adaptive, and people-centered can enable youth to thrive, empower the working-age population to contribute productively, and support older adults in remaining active, independent, and engaged. In this sense, health is not only a sectoral priority but a strategic enabler of demographic resilience and development.

Finally, this session seeks to go beyond technical discussions by drawing on diverse perspectives and lived experiences across countries and regions at various stages of demographic transition. It will spotlight insights from private sector innovation, civil society engagement, and the voices of young people—highlighting their critical roles in shaping inclusive, future-ready health systems that are responsive to demographic realities and capable of delivering well-being for all.

| OBJECTIVES

This session delves into the dynamic interplay between the demographic dividend and the silver economy, identifying actionable strategies for health systems to leverage the opportunities and mitigate the challenges presented by both. Key discussion areas include: understanding policy preparations in countries at different transitional stages; demonstrating how strategic investments in youth health create lasting benefits for individuals and economies; and sharing action-oriented case studies from diverse global contexts of the demographic shifts. Furthermore, the session will examine innovative and

inclusive approaches to service delivery, use of technology, and financing, needed to support healthy aging and cater to the silver economy. The ultimate aim is to foster dialogue on insights, experiences, lesson learned and knowledge to enact (health) policies and actions towards equitable, and resilient health systems adaptable to diverse demographic realities.

| MODERATOR

- **Sang-Hyop Lee**, Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa, United States of America

| PANELIST

| SPEAKER

- **Aïssata Fall**, Senior Program Director, Regional Representative for West and Central Africa, Population Reference Bureau, Senegal
- **Voradon Lerdrat**, Director of Research and Policy Partnerships, 101 Public Policy Think Tank (101 PUB), Thailand
- **Philip O'Keefe**, Director of the Ageing Asia Research Hub at CEPAR (Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research), Professor of Practice at University of New South Wales, Australia
- **Kanoko Oishi**, CEO, Mediva Inc., Japan

PS 1.3

**THE ROLE OF FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS
AMID DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS**

| BACKGROUND

Demographic shifts—including population aging, changing household structures, declining fertility, and increased urbanization—are reshaping the foundational roles of family, community, and care environments across societies. These transitions pose profound implications for social cohesion, caregiving responsibilities, intergenerational relationships, and the design of health and social services.

Traditionally, families and communities have served as the primary sources of emotional, physical, and financial support throughout the life course. However, modern dynamics such as smaller family sizes, migration, and rising dependency ratios are straining these informal support systems. Meanwhile, communities are increasingly called upon to create inclusive, age-friendly, and resilient environments that promote well-being and enable people of all ages to thrive.

This session explores how families, communities, and the broader social environment can be strengthened and reimagined to support population health and social equity amid demographic change

| OBJECTIVES

This session explores innovative, inclusive, and equity-driven approaches that strengthen the role of families, communities, and supportive environments across the life course. The session highlights diverse models from mental health systems, palliative care, digital health, and age-friendly design — emphasizing how demographic transitions can be met with compassionate, community-rooted strategies.

| MODERATOR

- **Issarang Nuchprayoon**, Medical Director, The Wishing Well Foundation, Thailand

| PANELIST

- **Dinesh Arora**, Principal Health Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Philippines
- **Katie Malbon**, Lead for Acute CYP Mental Health, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, United Kingdom
- **Emi Kiyota**, Director, Centre for Environment and Ageing Well-ENGAGE, National University of Singapore, Singapore
- **Wycliffe Waweru**, Head, Digital Health, Population Services International (PSI), Kenya

PS 1.4

**ADVANCING INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND EQUITY IN AN
UNSETTLING WORLD**

| BACKGROUND

As the world navigates complex demographic and socio-political transitions, including population ageing, youth bulges in certain regions, and increasing diversity, intergenerational solidarity and equity have become crucial pillars for sustainable and inclusive development. These shifts are unfolding amidst broader challenges: climate change, economic pressures, geopolitical tensions, and widening social divides, all of which risk straining intergenerational trust, solidarity, and a commitment to shared goals. This session will explore how societies can strengthen cooperation and mutual responsibility across generations to build resilient and inclusive communities. Drawing from global and regional experiences, including ASEAN's work through the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI), the session aims to spotlight policy innovations, grassroots initiatives, and community-led approaches that foster intergenerational fairness and dignity for all age groups.

| OBJECTIVES

- To examine how demographic transitions impact intergenerational relations and social equity.
- To identify policy frameworks that promote fairness across generations in health, education, employment, and social protection.
- To amplify perspectives of ecopolitics from the Global South, and highlight challenges and opportunities in balancing current needs with the rights of future generations, particularly around ecopolitics, climate action and resource sustainability.

| MODERATOR

- **Mikiko Kanda**, Technical Lead, Healthy Ageing, World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO), Philippines

| PANELIST

- **Vania De La Fuente-Nunez**, Founder & Principal Consultant in Healthy Ageing & Ageism, Vânia de la Fuente Advisory, Spain
- **Edren M. Llanillo**, Founder and Executive Director, Padyarescue Inc., Philippines
- **Stephen Meir Tollman**, Research Professor, SAMRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- **Sabu S. Padmadas**, Professor of Demography and Global Health, Department of Social Statistics & Demography, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Southampton, United Kingdom

PS 1.2

**HARNESSING DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDENDS AND SILVER ECONOMY, AND
IMPLICATION TO HEALTH SYSTEM**

| BACKGROUND

Over the past century, humanity has witnessed **transformation in population structures across the globe. These shifts are not uniform** - they unfold at varying speeds and stages across different regions, presenting a complex mosaic of opportunities and challenges for governments, societies, and systems. Many nations, particularly in the Global South (e.g., Egypt, India, Nigeria), are experiencing a potential first demographic dividend¹, characterized by a large youth population and the possibility of economic growth if investments in youth health and education are prioritized. Simultaneously, countries across regions like East Asia, Western Europe, and Latin America (e.g., Germany, Netherlands, Chile, Uruguay) are navigating population aging, potentially benefiting from a second demographic dividend² driven by increased savings and human capital accumulation among older cohorts, provided enabling policies are in place. Further along the transition, highly aged societies (e.g., Japan, Europe, USA, China) are exploring a third demographic dividend³ and the burgeoning silver economy, leveraging the continued productivity and consumption of healthy older adults and the industries serving them.

While countries face distinct demographic realities - some grappling with youth bulges, others managing rapid aging - **these differences present valuable opportunities for mutual learning and policy action and innovation.** The notion of multiple demographic dividends encourages a dynamic, shared approach: nations experiencing a first dividend can draw lessons from those that have successfully navigated their demographic transitions, while aging societies can look to younger nations for insights into resilience, intergenerational solidarity, and innovation driven by youthful energy. Rather than a linear path, demographic change unfolds in diverse, context-specific ways. By fostering cross- regional dialogue and collaboration, countries can co-create solutions that respond not only to their own demographic challenges but also contribute to a broader global agenda of inclusive growth, sustainable health systems, and equitable well-being for all age groups.

Thus, beyond exploring the multifaceted challenges and lessons emerging from the different demographic dividends and the evolving silver economy, this session returns to **the core focus of PMAC: transforming health systems in response to demographic change.** It is designed to address the critical intersection of demographic trends and health, with the aim of fostering balanced, equitable, and resilient health systems and health-related industries that meet the needs of all generations.

Central to this transformation is the recognition of health as a foundational driver in realizing the benefits of demographic dividends. Good health across the life course—from maternal and childcare to adolescent well-being, adult productivity, and healthy aging- underpins human capital development and sustainable economic growth. Health systems that are inclusive, adaptive, and people-centered can enable youth to thrive, empower the working-age population to contribute productively, and support older adults in remaining active, independent, and engaged. In this sense, health is not only a sectoral priority but a strategic enabler of demographic resilience and development.

Finally, this session seeks to go beyond technical discussions by drawing on diverse perspectives and lived experiences across countries and regions at various stages of demographic transition. It will spotlight insights from private sector innovation, civil society engagement, and the voices of young people—highlighting their critical roles in shaping inclusive, future-ready health systems that are responsive to demographic realities and capable of delivering well-being for all.

| OBJECTIVES

This session delves into the dynamic interplay between the demographic dividend and the silver economy, identifying actionable strategies for health systems to leverage the opportunities and mitigate the challenges presented by both. Key discussion areas include: understanding policy preparations in countries at different transitional stages; demonstrating how strategic investments in youth health create lasting benefits for individuals and economies; and sharing action-oriented case studies from diverse global contexts of the demographic shifts. Furthermore, the session will examine innovative and

inclusive approaches to service delivery, use of technology, and financing, needed to support healthy aging and cater to the silver economy. The ultimate aim is to foster dialogue on insights, experiences, lesson learned and knowledge to enact (health) policies and actions towards equitable, and resilient health systems adaptable to diverse demographic realities.

| MODERATOR

- **Sang-Hyop Lee**, Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa, United States of America

| PANELIST

| SPEAKER

- **Aïssata Fall**, Senior Program Director, Regional Representative for West and Central Africa, Population Reference Bureau, Senegal
- **Voradon Lerdrat**, Director of Research and Policy Partnerships, 101 Public Policy Think Tank (101 PUB), Thailand
- **Philip O'Keefe**, Director of the Ageing Asia Research Hub at CEPAR (Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research), Professor of Practice at University of New South Wales, Australia
- **Kanoko Oishi**, CEO, Mediva Inc., Japan

PS 1.5

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND: INCLUSIVE POLICIES FOR VULNERABLE AND AT-RISK GROUPS IN AN ERA OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

| BACKGROUND

As global demographics shift—through aging populations, urbanization, migration, and changing family structures—vulnerable and at-risk groups often remain excluded from the benefits of development and social progress. This session explores how inclusive policy design and innovative interventions can ensure equity for vulnerable and at-risk groups, such as the older persons, people with disabilities, migrants, indigenous populations, and gender minorities. With examples from diverse global contexts, the session offers actionable insights for building socially cohesive and inclusive societies amidst demographic transitions.¹

| OBJECTIVES

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Understand the differentiated impacts of demographic transitions on vulnerable and at-risk groups.
- Learn from real-world examples of inclusive policy innovations.
- Be equipped with practical tools and guiding principles to apply equity-focused thinking to policy design.
- Engage with global voices and perspectives on inclusive development.

| MODERATOR

- **Monire Therese-Bassir**, Programme Specialist and the Focal Point for Disability, UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Thailand

| PANELIST

- **Renu Khanna**, Co-founder, Society for Health Alternatives, India, India
- **Viviane Oke**, Founder, ELLES App, Benin
- **Muhammad Hamid Zaman**, Professor, Director of Center on Forced Displacement, Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Global Health, Boston University, United States of America

| SPEAKER

- **Nik Norliati Fitri Md Nor**, Senior Lecturer, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Malaysia

PL 2

DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS AND HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

| BACKGROUND

Global demographic transitions—including aging populations and declining fertility rates, youth bulges, and complex migration patterns—pose significant challenges to health systems worldwide[1],2. These will result in structural changes with around 55 per cent of the world’s population living in towns and cities, projected to be 70 per cent by 2050[2]. However, changing demographics will impact health systems if we do not prepare; for example, countries with the most increase in non-communicable diseases, are least prepared to address in terms of their health systems[3]. Investing in health systems will be critical to tackle these challenges[4]. Key issues on demographic transitions relate to changing disease burden, healthcare infrastructure and access, aging population and long-term care, workforce and economic impact, maternal and child health, health policy and financing and technological advancements. In addition, there is a need to think of a life course approach to health and well-being and how health systems can be designed for this purpose[5]. Overall, there is therefore a need for a holistic approach to adapt health systems to respond to the shifts in demographics.

[1] PMAC 2026 overarching concept note: 1. PMAC2026 Concept Note as of 24 Jan (1).pdf

[2] Shifting Demographics | United Nations

[3] The Changing Demographics of Global Health

[4] Global health 2035: a world converging within a generation - The Lancet

[5] The life-course approach: from theory to practice: case stories from two small countries in Europe

| OBJECTIVES

The objective of this plenary is to highlight the imperative for inclusive and sustainable health systems that are resilient to shifting demographics, recognising the need for multi-sectoral, life-course approaches in the context of current global developments, to improve population health and well-being.

| MODERATOR

- **Feng Zhao**, Practice Manager, Health, Nutrition and Population Program, South Asia Region, The World Bank, United States of America

| SPEAKER

- **Jimmy Volmink**, Executive Director, Equity, Wellcome Trust, United Kingdom
- **Ntobeko Ntusi**, President, South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), South Africa
- **Dechen Wangmo**, Head, The PEMA Secretariat, Bhutan
- **Ailan Li**, Former Assistant Director-General and WHO Representative to Thailand, World Health Organization, Thailand

PS 2.1

**NAVIGATING DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITIONS: IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS
FOR THE HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH**

| BACKGROUND

The global demographic landscape is undergoing a profound transformation characterised by ageing populations, declining birth rates, shifting dependency ratios, and migration. These trends are placing unprecedented pressure on health systems, particularly in workforce availability, distribution, and sustainability. As countries navigate the demographic transition, the demand for health and care services, especially for older adults and those with chronic conditions, is rapidly increasing. This reshapes population structures and places growing pressure on the health workforce in terms of supply, financing, and the ability to deliver culturally competent and age-appropriate care. Many countries face critical shortages of qualified health and care workers, exacerbated by internal maldistribution and international migration.

Migration of the health workforce has become a defining feature of the global labour market. While mobility can offer benefits, such as skills development and remittance flows, it poses serious challenges for source countries facing workforce depletion. The movement of health workforce from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to high-income countries (HICs) often reflects global inequality and may compromise health system resilience and the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC).

Human resources for health (HRH) encompasses both professional and non-professional personnel involved in the delivery of health and care services.

This session will explore the impact of demographic transitions on HRH within countries and across regions. It will cover global and regional data on migration patterns, shrinking labour pools, and the implications for system sustainability. The discussion will unpack the "negative chain" of imbalances, such as out-migration, ageing workforce, declining tax bases, and increasing long-term care needs.

This includes consideration of the international recruitment code and often-overlooked challenges like the inflow of internationally displaced persons (IDPs). The session will feature innovative country responses, highlighting practical strategies, such as adaptation of systems to ageing societies, strengthening and retaining local HRH, fostering cultural competence, and leveraging technology and innovation.

By convening policymakers, researchers, international agencies, and frontline professionals, this session aims to promote sustainable, ethical, and equitable solutions for HRH challenges, particularly in LMICs facing significant HRH gaps. The goal is to identify actionable, evidence-based policy responses to ensure no country is left behind.

| OBJECTIVES

- To explore how demographic shifts are reshaping the demand and supply of human resources for health.
- To identify what types of human resources for health are needed and how countries can develop and retain them.
- To share innovations, policies, and practices from a diverse set of countries and stakeholders.

| MODERATOR

- **Ritu Sadana**, Head, WHO Secretariat for UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

| SPEAKER

- **Muthoni Karanja**, Directorate Head for Health Professionals, Kenya Human Resource Advisory Council (KHRAC), Kenya
- **Minghui Ren**, Director, Institute for Global Health, Peking University, China
- **Bootsakorn Loharjun**, Director, Department of Medical Services, Institute of Geriatric Medicine, Thailand
- **Kenneth Ronquillo**, Faculty Member, Ateneo School of Government, Philippines

PS 2.2

**SECURING THE FUTURE OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL
AGES: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING SOLUTIONS**

| BACKGROUND

The global health landscape continues to evolve, presenting new challenges and opportunities due to demographic transitions and regime changes, including ageing populations, urbanization, and migration. The recent geopolitical context further complicates this scenario, influencing domestic resource allocation, financial and technical support from leading donor agencies, and the stability of multilateral systems worldwide. These shifts demand transformative approaches to sustainable financing to ensure that health systems remain robust and responsive to evolving health and care needs.

With only five years left until 2030, addressing the multifaceted aspects of health financing systems is imperative, ensuring that resources are effectively mobilized, allocated, and utilized to achieve universal health coverage (UHC), other health-related sustainable development goals (SDGs), and other global health commitments, including the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing. This session explores strategies for reorienting financing and service delivery around a life course approach, building systems that can equitably pool risks, improving resilience to external shocks, and aligning public investment with evolving population needs and social goals.

| OBJECTIVES

- Examining how demographic shifts, particularly ageing populations, changing employment patterns, and urbanization, challenge the sustainability of domestic health financing systems.
- To explore how a life course approach can inform strategic priority setting and resource allocation across different age groups and the population's health needs.
- To identify country experiences and innovative strategies for core health financing functions (i.e., revenue raising, pooling, purchasing, benefit design) that enhance financial sustainability, equity, and responsiveness to health and care needs across the life course.
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| CHAIRS

- **Malebona Precious Matsoso**, Director, Health Regulatory Science Platform, Wits Health Consortium, South Africa

| MODERATOR

- **Akihito Watabe**, Health Specialist (Health Financing), Human and Social Development Office, Sectors Group, Asian Development Bank, Philippines
- **Kiesha Prem**, Assistant Professor at Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, Singapore

| PANELIST

- **Soonman Kwon**, Professor of Health Economics and Policy, School of Public Health, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea
- **Huijun Cynthia Chen**, Assistant Professor, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, Singapore
- **Samrit Srithamrongsawat**, Assistant Professor, Mahidol University, Thailand
- **Lluis Vinyals Torres**, Director, Division of Health Systems and Services, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Philippines
- **Ayako Honda**, Professor, Graduate School of Economics, Faculty of Economics, Hitotsubashi Institute for Advanced Study, Japan

| SPEAKER

- **Jonathan Cylus**, Visiting Professor in Practice, LSE Health and London Hubs Coordinator, European Observatory, London School of Economics, Spain
- **Ghina Fadhillah**, Project Officer, Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development Initiatives (CISDI), Indonesia
- **Festus Susilo**, Chief Executive Officer, Mitra Plumbon Healthcare, Indonesia

PS 2.3

RESPONSIVE SERVICE DELIVERY IN SHIFTING HEALTH NEEDS

| BACKGROUND

Global demographic transitions—including aging populations, declining fertility rates, urbanization, and migration—are reshaping health needs. Traditional health systems, designed for acute and facility-based care, struggle to address the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, mental health conditions, and multi-morbidity, which require continuous, integrated services. In Sub-Saharan Africa and other regions with large youth populations, specialized approaches to sexual, reproductive, and mental health are essential. Rising mobility and migration are diversifying populations, demanding culturally and linguistically responsive services. Meanwhile, persistent inequities leave vulnerable and marginalized groups underserved, underscoring the urgent need for innovative, inclusive, and adaptive delivery models.

Meeting these challenges requires service delivery innovations. Integrated, person-centered care models are critical for managing chronic and complex conditions, while expanding community- and home-based services ensures accessibility for older adults and those with mobility challenges. Primary care must function as a continuous, coordinated hub, strengthened by digital health and telemedicine. Services should be tailored to demographic needs—youth-friendly, gender-responsive, and culturally adapted—while workforce transformation is needed through new roles, geriatric training, and digital competencies. Financing reforms should prioritize prevention and long-term care, guided by real-time data to ensure equity. Co-designing services with communities will help build trust and relevance across diverse populations.

Key priorities include shifting from acute, hospital-based care toward long-term, integrated, and preventive services; expanding geriatric and long-term care alongside caregiver support; addressing rising burdens of NCDs and mental health through multidisciplinary approaches; and ensuring youth-responsive health services. Reducing urban-rural disparities, leveraging digital technologies for smarter planning, and investing in workforce training, task-shifting, and retention strategies are equally important. Equity and inclusion must guide service design, financing should align with population health goals, and strong governance and accountability are needed to enable cross-sector collaboration and responsive policymaking.

The session will showcase a set of case studies and generate cross-sector insights on integrating digital health, workforce strategies, and financing reforms, while providing a collaborative platform for stakeholders to co-create future-ready health systems grounded in equity and inclusion.

The expected outcome is a shared understanding of how demographic trends are reshaping health needs and service delivery priorities. Participants will explore innovative approaches to make health systems more adaptive, inclusive, and resilient, and develop actionable policy and practice recommendations for aging, youth, and mobile populations.

| OBJECTIVES

- This session aims to showcase innovative models, systems and frameworks for transforming healthservice delivery systems to better respond to changinghealth needs driven by demographic shifts.
- It will highlight international innovations from a selected set of countries and facilitate a discussion as well longevity focused system approach.
- It will focus on lessons learned and opportunities for countries undertaking this transformation.

| CHAIRS

- **Feng Zhao**, Practice Manager, Health, Nutrition and Population Program, South Asia Region, The World Bank, United States of America

| MODERATOR

- **Xiaohui Hou**, Senior Economist, World Bank Group, United States of America

| KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- **David Bishai**, Professor, University of Hong Kong, China

| SPEAKER

- **Hiang Khoon Tan**, CEO, Singapore General Hospital, Singapore
- **Sriomi Maduwage**, Public Health Specialist, Sri Lanka Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
- **Jun Sasaki**, Founder and CEO, Yushokai Medical Corporation, Japan
- **Keisuke Shimizu**, Chief of Family Medicine, Izu Health and Medical Center, Japan
- **Anna Koziel**, Senior Health Specialist, World Bank Group, Nepal
- **Tengku Aizan Hamid**, Chairman of the Board, Private Pension Administrator, Malaysia
- **Mohamed Elduma**, Head of Health Unit, IGAD Secretariat, Djibouti

PS 2.4

**PEOPLE-CENTERED LONG-TERM CARE: PROMISING MULTISECTORAL AND
COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES**

| BACKGROUND

As countries across the globe experience demographic transitions marked by longer life expectancies and declining fertility rates, the demand for long-term care (LTC) is growing rapidly. Aging populations are reshaping social structures, family dynamics, and public health priorities. While many health systems remain focused on acute care, the need to strengthen long-term, people-centered, and community-rooted care models is more urgent than ever. The demographic shift also points to the necessity of multisectoral approaches that involve the public and private sectors to deliver sustainable and dignified care across the life course – all with the meaningful engagement of older adults in the planning and implementation of these services.

Communities often serve as the first line of support for older adults and those with chronic conditions. When empowered, community-based actors can play a transformative role in identifying care needs and ensuring continuity of care. At the same time, effective LTC requires governance structures that bridge sectors and scales—from national policy to local implementation. This session will explore how countries can build integrated, resilient LTC systems that are inclusive, community-led, and supported by strong multisectoral collaboration.

| OBJECTIVES

To share LTC strategies and models that link community engagement with national policy and service delivery frameworks.

- To identify enabling factors for effective multisectoral collaboration in LTC.
- To generate practical recommendations for strengthening LTC systems in the context of aging populations.

| MODERATOR

- **Shintaro Nakamura**, Senior Advisor on Social Security, JICA, Japan

| SPEAKER

- **Katsuya Iijima**, Director, Institute of Gerontology, Institute for Future Initiatives, The University of Tokyo, Japan
- **Janevit Wisojsongkram**, Chief Executive Officer, Buddy Home Care Social Enterprise, FOPDEV, Thailand
- **Akosua Agyemang**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Work/Centre for Ageing Studies, University of Ghana-Legon, Ghana
- **Marco Stampini**, Sector Lead Specialist - Social Protection, Inter-American Development Bank, United States of America
- **Hongsoo Kim**, Professor of Health Policy and Aging at the Graduate School of Public Health, Director of the Center for AI in Health and Care at the Artificial Intelligence Institute at Seoul National University (SNU), South Korea, Republic of Korea

PS 2.5

DIVERSE VALUES AND ETHICS IN DESIGNING POPULATION POLICIES

| BACKGROUND

Demographic policies are among the most influential aspects of decision making in the health sector, but the values embodied in different choices are not commonly analysed.

Population policies or “demographic engineering”, as some advocates have called it, is contentious, shaped by values and ideologies. Defined as “a specific set of governmental objectives relative to the population magnitude and/or composition together with the instruments by which it may be possible to achieve them”, population policies related to increasing birthrates are typically categorised as being pro-natalist, and those intended to decrease birthrates are anti-natalist, although population policies also consider issues of migration and mortality. Countries use targets (eg a one-child policy) or a series of incentives (eg cash or kind subsidies) or disincentives (eg discontinuation of benefits for larger families) or legislative actions (eg limiting access to contraception). However, there has been an increasing acknowledgement that it is important to address the factors influencing the number of children people wish to have. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994 highlighted the importance of taking a rights approach to reproductive health⁷. While strides have been made in access to reproductive health, there are underserved communities (eg differently abled groups) and given the increase in mean age of the first birth, the need for alternative reproductive service support.

| OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this session is to examine how values shape health policy using the case of population policies across different country contexts and:

- To learn about the intended and unintended consequences of values and ethics on health equity;
- To identify mechanisms to enable health systems to better respond to them to ensure equitable population policies;
- To equip participants on how to frame values and ethics in designing population policies.

Framework

Speakers will address issues such as equity, interventions, governance and political issues, as articulated in the framework by Velez et al. This framework identifies goal-related (eg equity), technical (eg efficiency), governance (eg authority), and situational (eg political system) values shape policies for health across the policy cycle⁸. The session will emphasise sharing experiences, encourage mutual learning and refine existing frameworks to enable applicability of lessons learned to diverse contexts.

Key issues

The session will focus on the issue of population policy through country case studies where pro-natalist and anti-natalist approaches are implemented and will also consider implications for underrepresented groups such as double-income no kids (DINKS) in these discussions. Indeed, one of the challenges of articulating policies is that some of the underlying values are hidden, impacting sub-sections of the population.

| MODERATOR

- **Fatou Wurie**, Founder & Chief Steward, Youterus Health, Sierra Leone

| SPEAKER

- **Stuart Gietel-Basten**, Associate Dean, School of Humanities & Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, China
- **Poonam Muttreja**, Executive Director, Population Foundation of India, India
- **Aïssata Fall**, Senior Program Director, Regional Representative for West and Central Africa, Population Reference Bureau, Senegal
- **Dechen Wangmo**, Head, The PEMA Secretariat, Bhutan

PL 3

GOVERNING HEALTH FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET: GEOPOLITICS IN FLUX

| BACKGROUND

The world is undergoing profound population transitions, with aging societies, youth bulges, migration shifts, and urbanization reshaping economic and social landscapes. These demographic changes intersect with global polycrises—climate change, geopolitical instability, economic downturns, and technological disruptions—accelerating risks and widening inequalities. A 2023 study finds humanity has breached six of nine planetary boundaries, increasing risks of global instability and urgent need for action.

The World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2025 underscores the severity of these challenges (see figure 1), identifying state-based armed conflict as the most pressing immediate global risk, with nearly one-quarter of respondents ranking it as the most severe concern for the year ahead. Extreme weather events, driven by climate change, are the second-ranked danger, highlighting the intertwined nature of environmental and geopolitical threats.

Recent geopolitical shifts, particularly escalating tensions between major powers like the United States, China, and Russia, are profoundly influencing global health and planetary well-being. Demographic-driven geopolitical tensions, labor market imbalances, and forced displacement are exacerbating inequalities, particularly in fragile and low-income regions. Meanwhile, technological advancements such as AI, automation, and digital health are transforming economies but risk exacerbating intergenerational and global divides. Governments must navigate these crises with constrained resources, requiring new adaptive governance models and renewed international collaboration to effectively tackle these multifaceted challenges.

The relationship between population dynamics and planetary health is central to understanding global environmental change (see Annex 1 for a conceptual framework). On one hand, population growth, consumption patterns, and resource demands drive climate change through carbon emissions and ecological degradation. On the other, climate change directly impacts human health and well-being, disproportionately affecting vulnerable subgroups based on age, geography, and socio-economic status. A nuanced understanding of population size, composition, and distribution is critical for developing sustainable responses to the planetary crisis.

In 2023, the global population exceeded 8 billion, with projections estimating 9 billion by 2040 and 10 billion by 2060. While rapid population growth strains resources and increases exposure to climate risks, declining fertility rates in over 55 countries by 2050 present a contrasting challenge. Some environmentalists argue that population decline could mitigate climate pressures, yet high-income, low-fertility countries remain the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, ageing populations reshape consumption and emissions patterns. Energy use peaks between ages 35–55, declines, and then rises again after age 70 due to longer indoor stays and larger home sizes. This demographic shift may offset expected reductions in emissions from population decline, reinforcing the need for equitable, consumption-focused climate policies. In many LMICs, large youthful populations are driving rapid urbanization, economic development, and demand for food, water, and energy. These countries often struggle with inadequate infrastructure, leading to unsustainable resource extraction, deforestation, and pollution.

The stark disparity in carbon footprints—with individuals in the U.S. and Australia emitting nearly twice as much as those in China, despite China's total emissions being the highest—underscores the urgency of rethinking sustainability strategies beyond population growth control.

The intersection of climate change, migration, and global health is an escalating crisis, as climate-induced environmental changes force large-scale displacement. Climate migrants, displaced by rising sea levels, extreme weather, and droughts, lack formal recognition under international law, leaving them vulnerable to inadequate protection and resources. The WHO Global Research Agenda identifies the health of displaced populations in climate contexts as an urgent yet under-researched issue. Climate migration exacerbates disease burdens, introduces novel health risks, and disrupts health systems, affecting both climate migrants and broader migrant groups. Addressing this crisis requires legal recognition, healthcare access, and climate resilience strategies.

Gender dynamics further complicate the planetary health and geopolitical landscape. Climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately impact women and girls due to entrenched gender inequalities, including limited access to healthcare, economic resources, and decision-making power. For instance, UN Women estimates that by 2050, up to 158 million additional women and girls could be pushed into poverty due to climate-related shocks. In crisis contexts, women often bear the brunt of caregiving responsibilities, face increased exposure to waterborne and vector-borne diseases, and are more likely to experience food insecurity. Studies have also shown that gender-based violence and maternal health risks increase in the aftermath of climate disasters and displacement. Addressing these disparities requires integrating gender-responsive approaches into climate adaptation, health governance, and peacebuilding strategies to ensure equitable outcomes.

Young people are not only disproportionately affected by planetary crises—they are central to shaping solutions. Youth-led movements have driven global climate awareness and catalyzed political pressure for urgent action. According to the World Economic Forum, youth participation in national climate action plans and innovation platforms is growing rapidly, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Young people are contributing to both policy and practice, developing grassroots initiatives, digital tools, and climate resilience strategies. Empowering youth through education, leadership opportunities, and co-design mechanisms is essential to bridging generational divides, promoting intergenerational justice, and accelerating transitions toward sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient societies.

| OBJECTIVES

This subtheme explores the complex interplay of geopolitical transitions, demographic shifts, technological disruptions, and planetary health threats, focusing on how these dynamics reshape governance systems, population resilience, and global cooperation. In an era marked by polycrisis, the subtheme seeks to identify actionable strategies and inclusive governance mechanisms that foster health equity, sustainability, and intergenerational justice.

Analyze how demographic transitions—including population aging, youth bulges, fertility decline, and migration—interact with climate change to reshape global power, security, and governance

Assess how planetary health threats—such as climate-induced disasters, resource degradation, and ecological collapse—act as conflict multipliers and drivers of migration, health inequity, and geopolitical volatility.

Examine the dual role of technology—including artificial intelligence, surveillance tools, and digital health systems—as both a solution and a disruptor in demographic governance, planetary health protection, and global health equity.

Advance strategies for gender-responsive and youth-inclusive governance that strengthens planetary health, anticipates future population needs, and mitigates intergenerational inequities.

| MODERATOR

- **Thu-Ba Huynh**, Senior Manager, Climate Action and Regenerative Environment, World Vision Australia, Australia

| KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- **Andrew Haines**, Professor, centre on Climate Change and Planetary Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

| PANELIST

- **Raya Muttarak**, Professor of Demography, University of Bologna, Italy
- **John Patterson**, Chief of Programs and Contracts, World Vision Australia (WVA), Australia
- **Alana Nicholls**, Founder and CEO, Pro Purpose, Australia
- **Heela Yoon**, Founder & Executive Director, Muska, United Kingdom
- **Suriwan Thaiprayoon**, Division of Global Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
- **Gabriel Leung**, Director, Institute of Philanthropy, China

PS 3.1

**PLANET, POWER, AND PEOPLE: BUILDING JUST TRANSITIONS ACROSS
GENERATIONS**

| BACKGROUND

Humanity has thrived for over 10,000 years within a period of climatic stability and a resilient Earth system, which has allowed the development of advanced technologies and cultures. However, as the 2024 Planetary Health check Report shows, we are now entering a dangerous new era marked by increasing symptoms of Planet Boundaries transgressions, such as more frequent extreme weather events, wildfires, reduced plant productivity, and water scarcity. The report reveals that six out of nine PB processes have breached the safe PB levels, with all six showing trends of increasing pressure in all control variables, suggesting further boundary transgression in the near future.

These challenges are compounded by a still-growing global population that must navigate unprecedented difficulties. The relationship between population dynamics and planetary health is central to understanding global environmental change. On one hand, population growth, consumption patterns, and resource demands drive climate change through carbon emissions and ecological degradation. On the other, climate change directly impacts human health and well-being, disproportionately affecting vulnerable subgroups based on age, geography, and socio-economic status. A nuanced understanding of population size, composition, and distribution is critical for developing sustainable responses to the planetary crisis.

In 2023, the global population exceeded 8 billion, with projections estimating 9 billion by 2040 and 10 billion by 2060. While rapid population growth strains resources and increases exposure to climate risks, declining fertility rates in over 55 countries by 2050 present a contrasting challenge. Some environmentalists argue that population decline could mitigate climate pressures, yet high-income, low-fertility countries remain the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, ageing populations reshape consumption and emissions patterns. Energy use peaks between ages 35–55, declines, and then rises again after age 70 due to longer indoor stays and larger home sizes. This demographic shift may offset expected reductions in emissions from population decline, reinforcing the need for equitable, consumption-focused climate policies. In many LMICs, large youthful populations are driving rapid urbanization, economic development, and demand for food, water, and energy. These countries often struggle with inadequate infrastructure, leading to unsustainable resource extraction, deforestation, and pollution.

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Economic Forum, youth participation in national climate action plans and innovation platforms is growing rapidly, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Young people are contributing to both policy and practice, developing grassroots initiatives, digital tools, and climate resilience strategies. Empowering youth through education, leadership opportunities, and co-design mechanisms is essential to bridging generational divides, promoting intergenerational justice, and accelerating transitions toward sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient societies.

| OBJECTIVES

This PS3.1 explores the complex interplay of geopolitical transitions, demographic shifts, and planetary health threats, focusing on how these dynamics reshape governance systems, population resilience, and global cooperation. In an era marked by polycrisis, the session seeks to identify actionable strategies and inclusive governance mechanisms that foster health equity, sustainability, and intergenerational justice. Some key questions include:

How does planetary health (climate change, energy consumption, resource depletion) impact global migration, security, and power structures?

- What governance failures/successes are accelerating/addressing climate-induced displacement, food and water crises, and migration conflicts?
- How do planetary health risks (heatwaves, water shortages, disease outbreaks) contribute to geopolitical tensions and border conflicts?

What governance models and policy responses are needed to manage the intersection of population transitions, geopolitics, and planetary health crises?

- How can regional and international bodies (e.g., ASEAN, EU, UN...) improve cooperation on planetary health and migration crises?
- What policies are needed to regulate emerging technologies, protect climate migrants, and prevent political destabilization from demographic shifts?

How do gender disparities in global governance, labor markets, and demographic transitions influence geopolitics, migration, and planetary health?

- How do gender disparities in economic participation and political power influence climate adaptation, health system resilience, and migration policies?
- What strategies are needed to ensure gender-responsive governance that integrates planetary health, economic resilience, and demographic transitions?

| MODERATOR

- **Omnia Omrani**, Vice-Chair, Global Climate Health Alliance, United Kingdom

| PANELIST

- **Woraphot Kingkawkantong**, Partner - Investment, Beacon Venture Capital, Kaisikorn Bank, Thailand
- **Raya Muttarak**, Professor of Demography, University of Bologna, Italy
- **Yukiko Yamada Morovic**, Director, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Actions, World Vision International, Spain
- **Carina Hirsch**, Head of Advocacy & Policy, Margaret Pyke Trust, United Kingdom

PS 3.2

**DIGITAL FUTURES IN A DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT: TECHNOLOGY FOR HEALTH,
JUSTICE, AND THE PLANET.**

| BACKGROUND

Many low- and middle-income countries are experiencing youth surges. Young populations are not only digital natives but innovation drivers—AI is emmeshed in and influences their life and life decisions. Yet, they often face unequal access to the digital tools, training, and platforms that could power health and climate solutions from the ground up. At the same time, aging societies face growing gaps in long-term care, chronic disease management, and labour force participation. AI-enabled elder care, home health monitoring, and robotic support offer potential solutions—but raise questions about data ethics, human dignity, and intergenerational workforce displacement.

Digital health, surveillance technologies, and planetary monitoring systems are increasingly critical to anticipating and managing climate-health risks. But inequities in digital infrastructure, data sovereignty, and AI governance can be deepening the divide between high- and low-capacity health systems and between generations. Key questions remain. Who governs how health data are collected and used? How do we ensure older adults, marginalized groups, and future generations are not digitally excluded or exploited? How do we ensure technologies serve social and planetary goals, not just commercial ones?

In this session, we'll explore the dynamic interplay between rapid AI evolution and demographic transitions, and how differentiated demand and use of AI and digital tools across the generations are shaping the design and deployment of digital technologies for health and climate.

| OBJECTIVES

1. **Map and debate current and potential future use cases for AI for health and climate across the generational divide** - critically assess the role of AI, robotics, and digital tools in transforming health care access and delivery, health care worker labour markets, and public health systems—across ages, rural/urban, poor/rich, genders, ethnic groups and more.
2. **Examine equity concerns** around algorithmic bias, digital exclusion, and data colonialism in the Global South, and propose governance solutions rooted in transparency and justice.
3. **Highlight examples of youth-led and intergenerational innovations** that use digital tools for planetary health, health equity, and social protection.
4. **Identify scalable strategies for building digital and data infrastructure in LMICs** that support inclusive, adaptive, and rights-based approaches to technological governance.

| MODERATOR

- **Swati Mahajan**, Director - Health Systems Strengthening, South Asia, PATH, India

| KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- **Sara Khalid**, Associate Professor of Health Informatics and Biomedical Data Science Planetary Health Informatics, Centre for Statistics in Medicine, University of Oxford United Kingdom, United Kingdom

| PANELIST

- **Sarah Morris**, Chief Product Officer, Audere Africa, United States of America
- **Alexo Esperato**, Senior Health Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Philippines
- **Poruan Temu**, Senior Center Director, Digital Technology and AI | Papua New Guinea Country Representative, FHI360, Papua New Guinea

PS 3.3

**MOVING FUTURES: MIGRATION, LABOR, AND THE HEALTH OF A CHANGING
PLANET**

| BACKGROUND

Currently, the United Nations estimates there are about 304 million international migrants in the world, which equates to 3.7 per cent of the global population. But increasing numbers of people are being displaced, within and out of their country of origin, because of conflict, violence, political or economic instability as well as climate change and other disasters. In 2024, there were 123 million people forcibly displaced globally, including 73 million internally displaced people. (UN DESA, 2024; IOM World Migration Report, 2024)

Global health in the 21st century will be transformed by these evolving and expanding challenges with migrants deeply intertwined at multiple levels. Migrant labor is essential to the functioning of economies, particularly in sectors like agriculture, construction, domestic work, and healthcare. However, migrant workers often face exploitative conditions: informal contracts, lack of legal protections, unsafe workplaces, and exclusion from labor rights and benefits. These vulnerabilities are heightened for irregular or undocumented migrants, who may accept hazardous jobs due to limited options. Current geopolitical dynamics raise additional concerns and challenges for global migration, particularly for the health and wellbeing of migrants.

Globally, there is increasing demand for international migrants to support long-term care, including the outmigration of health personnel to developing countries, exacerbating the health labor shortage in developing countries.

Climate change is also altering migration patterns. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and droughts are already displacing communities, particularly in the Global South. As traditional livelihoods become unsustainable, people are pushed to urban centers or across borders in search of work. These climate migrants often end up in precarious labor markets, further compounding their exposure to health risks and economic exploitation.

Health outcomes for migrants are shaped by a complex interplay of social, environmental, and political factors. Upon arrival in host countries, migrants may face barriers such as language differences, discrimination, and limited access to healthcare services. Even when services are available, fear of deportation, cultural misunderstandings, and financial constraints often deter migrants from seeking care. Occupational health is a critical concern. Migrant workers are frequently employed in high-risk industries with little protection—resulting in elevated rates of injury, chronic illness, and mental health disorders.

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- Health Policy Watch report: <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/who-to-shrink-its-geneva-headquarters-down-to-just-four-divisions-with-health-systems-a-key-pillar/>

| OBJECTIVES

This parallel session will seek to identify actionable steps to address the manifold challenges related to global migration,

labor, and health, including:

- Expanding universal health coverage to include undocumented and cross-border migrants.
- Ensuring occupational and environmental health protections for migrant workers in high-risk sectors.
- Integrating migration and displacement into national climate adaptation strategies.
- Strengthening transnational legal frameworks that uphold migrant rights and health access.
- Understanding how ageing populations shape the demand for female migrant caregivers.
- Supporting community-based organizing and data sovereignty efforts led by migrants.

| MODERATOR

- **Timothy Mastro**, Adjunct Professor, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States of America
- **Kelly Perry**, PhD Student, Duke University, United States of America

| KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- **Santino Severoni**, Head of Health and Migration Special Initiative, World Health Organization, Switzerland
- **Poonam Dhavan**, Director, Migration Health Division, IOM, India

| PANELIST

- **Phongsak Nitikaroon**, Director of Health Administration Division, Thailand MOPH, Thailand
- **Otto Nzapfurundi Chabikuli**, Associate Professor, Howard University, South Africa
- **Betty Barkha**, GEDSI Technical Advisor, Save the Children Australia, Australia
- **Nyan Linn**, Head of Programs, Dreamlopmments Foundation, Thailand

PS 3.4

**PEACE UNDER PRESSURE: NAVIGATING CONFLICT, ENVIRONMENT, AND
POPULATION HEALTH**

| BACKGROUND

Peace is under immense and multifaceted pressure in the 21st century. No longer defined solely by the absence of war, it is increasingly threatened by ecological breakdown, widening economic inequality, demographic shifts, and political fragmentation. These intersecting factors destabilize societies, erode public institutions, and undermine systems that protect population health, human dignity, and social cohesion.

As crises converge, there is an urgent need to rethink what it means to build peace and safeguard public health in an unstable world. It demands strategic investment in health equity, ecological sustainability, and gender justice, pillars that strengthen societal resilience and promote long-term human security, defending and safeguarding the rights and well-being of future generations.

Escalating armed conflicts and geopolitical tensions

The world is witnessing a resurgence of prolonged and complex conflicts. The UN Secretary-General has warned that global peace is becoming increasingly elusive, with conflicts deepening and international cooperation weakening (UN, 2024). In 2023, nearly 2 billion people lived in conflict-affected areas (UN, 2023), profoundly affecting health, social cohesion, and development. By 2024, the UN recorded around 32 million refugees and 67 million internally displaced people (IDPs) (Statista, 2025). Children in conflict zones are particularly affected, facing direct violence, malnutrition, psychological trauma, and preventable disease due to the breakdown of healthcare systems and essential services (Bhutta et al, 2021).

The scale of global militarization compounds the crisis. Global military spending reached an unprecedented \$2.72 trillion in 2024, a 9.4% increase from the previous year and the steepest rise since the end of the Cold War (SIPRI, 2024, 2025). The erosion of arms control treaties and the modernization of nuclear arsenals pose an additional layer of global health risks. Key treaties such as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and the New START agreement have either collapsed or face uncertain futures, undermining decades of disarmament efforts (Arms Control Association, 2025; Brookings Institution, 2019).

As the Doomsday clock has moved to its most perilous position since its establishment in 1947, the escalation of conflict between nuclear-capable states, including the current crisis between Russia and Ukraine, and between Iran and Israel, increases the risk for global instability (Science and Security Board, 2025). As of 2024, nine countries maintain approximately 12,121 nuclear weapons, with over 2,000 on high alert (SIPRI, 2024). Beyond the existential risk of nuclear war, nuclear testing and environmental contamination have left lasting scars on communities, especially in the Pacific Islands and Central Asia, where countries are now calling for renewed WHO-led assessments to examine intergenerational health impacts and integrate nuclear preparedness into public health systems (Zarocostas, 2025).

Escalating geopolitical tensions, environmental collapse, and declining public trust are gravely testing the foundations of peace and stability. The shifting centers of influence, the politicization of global aid, and rising nationalism further complicate the collaboration on issues critical to human survival such as climate, health, and security thus weakening global governance.

Rivalries between major powers, such as the U.S.-China trade conflict, have intensified protectionism and fragmented global cooperation on sustainability and health. The UN Secretary-General has warned that existing global security arrangements are "disintegrating," with multilateral disarmament mechanisms failing to adapt to the complexities of a multipolar and climate-stressed world (Reuters, 2024).

Planetary health crisis as a conflict multiplier

Environmental degradation is no longer an ecological concern but a conflict accelerator. A planetary health perspective reveals how climate shocks, biodiversity loss, and pollution drive displacement, erode livelihoods, and deteriorate fragile governance systems. These disruptions in natural systems trigger and amplify social, economic, and political tensions, while undermining health systems and population well-being. The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report highlights how climate-driven events such as droughts and resource scarcity are linked to food insecurity, armed conflict, and mental and physical health

burdens (IPCC, 2023).

Research by Mach et al. (2019) supports this view, noting that climate factors, particularly drought and temperature extremes, affect organized armed conflict, though socioeconomic development and low capabilities of the state are judged to be more influential. Hao et al. (2023) argue that environmental disruptions not only exacerbate local resource competition but also erode state legitimacy when decision-makers fail to respond effectively, thereby fostering social unrest and violent mobilization.

Climate-induced insecurity is also spatially and socially uneven (WHO, 2023). The Climate Conflict Vulnerability Index maps hotspots where ecological stress intersects with institutional fragility and poverty, highlighting regions such as the Sahel, Horn of Africa, and parts of South Asia as particularly at risk (PIK, 2024). Women and girls face heightened vulnerabilities in climate-affected areas, including increased caregiving burdens, disruption in education, reduced access to sexual and reproductive health services, and increased risk of gender-based violence.

Violence against women remains tragically common in all parts of the world. Globally, an estimated one in three women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, with significant consequences to individuals, societies, and economies (WHO, 2023; UN Women, 2024).

Meanwhile, policy backsliding, including the rollback of environmental protections and reproductive rights, signals a concerning departure from both ecological and gender justice (The Guardian, 2024; Jenkins, 2023; UN Women, 2024). These developments harm health outcomes and underscore a global democratic regression that undermines both gender equity and planetary health imperatives.

Climate-induced migration and displacement

Climate-induced migration is also a growing global concern within and across national boundaries. By 2050, as many as 216 million people could be displaced within their countries due to climate change (World Bank, 2021). Climate-induced migration often exacerbates public health challenges, particularly in regions where water, sanitation, and healthcare are already under pressure (The Lancet, 2018). These mobility patterns are not 'only' humanitarian concerns; they are also increasingly reshaping political and security dynamics.

In countries such as Italy and Greece, rising migration flows from climate-stressed regions in Africa and the Middle East are straining public services, exacerbating political polarization, and challenging social cohesion (IOM, 2023). Simultaneously, in Syria and Iraq, the compounded impacts of environmental degradation, particularly drought and desertification and protracted armed conflict are driving mass displacement. These intersecting crises underscore the urgent need for integrated policy responses that bridge public health, climate resilience, and peacebuilding to support both displaced populations and host communities.

Demographic consequences: A fractured future

Demographic shifts compound these pressures. Youth bulges, unplanned urbanization, and intergenerational tensions in fragile and climate-affected regions intensify the risk for unrest, particularly when young people lack access to health, education, and employment. Over 473 million children, more than one in six globally, live in areas affected by conflict (UNICEF, 2024). Youth climate movements emphasize the increasing frustration with inaction from older generations, underscoring how youth-led activism reshapes global justice and sustainability discourses (de Moor et.al., 2022).

Investing in women and youth is both a moral imperative and a strategic necessity. Yet they remain underrepresented in decision-making and many political and environmental institutions, and their voice and expertise continue to be overlooked when designing policies or leading negotiations (UNFCCC, 2019). UNDP (2021) reports that only 26% of national COVID-19 task forces included women. Without their voices in leadership, societies risk a demographic penalty and the erosion of hope among the very generations who must inherit and rebuild from today's crises.

Rethinking security: health for peace

Military power cannot shield populations from pandemics, heatwaves, or ecological collapse. Yet, in 2024 global military spending reached **\$2.72 trillion, whereas health systems and climate adaptation efforts are underfunded** (SIPRI,

2024). This forces us to reconsider what peace and security mean in the 21st century and their impact on population health. The Lancet Commission on Peaceful Societies highlights the critical importance of health equity, gender equality, and inclusive governance for building resilient and peaceful societies and nudging harmful societies into beneficial ones (The Lancet, 2023). The WHO's Global Health and Peace Initiative (GHPI) launched in 2019 operationalizes this vision by integrating peacebuilding into its health programming, especially in conflict-related contexts (WHO, 2019).

Towards a peace-centered future

The Planetary Health Alliance calls for transforming development models that harm ecological and human systems. Ensuring equitable access to clean air, safe water, nutritious food, and healthcare is not merely an environmental or health priority but foundational to global stability (PHA, 2023). Incorporating the concept of quality peace further enriches this perspective. Quality peace, as articulated by Peter Wallensteen, emphasizes sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding efforts that promote long-term health and well-being. It underscores the importance of dignity, security, and the rule of law, creating a stable environment where healthcare systems can thrive (Wallensteen, 2015).

Framing peace and health through an intergenerational lens highlights the long-term stakes. Today's decisions on climate, migration, and conflict will shape life prospects for generations to come. Embedding youth voices and leadership, gender equity, and ecological stewardship at all levels of policymaking is not aspirational; it is the most rational and strategic path to a peaceful, sustainable, and equitable future for both people and planet.

Promising approaches:

- **Nature-based peacebuilding:** Initiatives like the UN's Peace Forests program promote ecological restoration in conflict zones to address environmental degradation and social division (UNEP, 2023). These efforts demonstrate how environmental stewardship can serve as a platform for peace.
- **Health diplomacy as a peace catalyst:** Collaborative health initiatives can serve as entry points for peace negotiations and confidence-building in fragile states. When created with equity and inclusion at their core, health systems can connect fractured societies and act as stabilizing institutions.
- **Climate adaptation for peace:** Regional and cross-border strategies, such as those explored in ASEAN and African Union frameworks, integrating health equity, climate resilience, and governance, can reduce conflict risk, enable cooperative problem-solving, and support long-term recovery.

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| OBJECTIVES

Objectives:

1. To explore how planetary health challenges, demographic transitions, and shifting geopolitical dynamics are reshaping global peace and security paradigms, and to identify inclusive, intergenerational, and gender-responsive policy frameworks and governance models that promote cooperation, resilience, and equity across sectors and borders.
2. To foster critical reflection and interdisciplinary dialogue among participants, encouraging them to explore the interconnections between planetary health, conflict, and governance; share diverse perspectives; and collaboratively identify pathways toward more just, inclusive, and resilient policy responses.

Key Questions:

- How do planetary health risks, such as extreme heat, water scarcity, and infectious disease outbreaks, interact with institutional fragility and contribute to geopolitical tensions, displacement, and public health breakdowns?

- What inclusive governance models are needed to manage the complex intersection of demographic transitions, forced migration, and ecological stress, while ensuring meaningful participation of women and youth in shaping peace and sustainability agendas?
- How can we reimagine health as a bridge for peace in an age of environmental breakdown, conflict proliferation, and geopolitical fragmentation?
- What forward-looking strategies can policymakers adopt to align ecological and human resilience with global security priorities and conflict prevention?
- How can multilateral institutions be to better integrate planetary health principles into peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, and conflict prevention efforts, especially in fragile and climate-vulnerable regions?
- How can academia and research institutions move beyond siloed thinking to foster integrated, cross-sectoral responses to the interconnected crises of climate change, conflict, and disease?

| MODERATOR

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| SPEAKER

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- **Jamela Al Raiby**, Country Representative, WHO, Iraq
- **Firass Abiad**, Former Minister of Health, Lebanon, Lebanon
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PS 3.5

**GENERATION NOW: YOUTH LEADERSHIP AT THE NEXUS OF HEALTH,
GENDER, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

| BACKGROUND

Today's world is home to the largest generation of young people, presenting an unprecedented opportunity to harness a demographic dividend for sustainable development. Yet, realising this potential demands urgent investment in health, education, and rights, especially for girls, young women, and vulnerable communities. Gender equality is critical not only for individual empowerment but also for unlocking broader social and economic progress.

Children and youth are disproportionately vulnerable to the escalating impacts of planetary health challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. These crises undermine their rights to health, education, and well-being, and disproportionately affect girls and young women through compounded risks. However, young people are not merely passive victims: they are active agents of change, advocating for transformative action at the intersections of gender, health, and environmental justice.

This youth-led session will explore the interconnectedness between demographic transitions, gender dynamics, youth empowerment, and planetary health. It will elevate youth voices, spotlight innovative youth-led solutions, and call for policy actions that centre equity, rights, and intergenerational justice.

| OBJECTIVES

- To explore how structural and environmental determinants, including climate change, disproportionately impact the health and well-being of youth and children.
- To showcase innovative youth-led and youth-centred approaches that promote planetary health and health equity.
- To discuss how investing in youth today, through education, health, and governance, can unlock the demographic dividend for a more just and sustainable future.
- To promote youth leadership by highlighting youth-led initiatives and solutions that address the intersections of health, rights, and environmental justice.
- To foster intergenerational dialogue to bridge young people's and policymakers' perspectives and commitments for more inclusive and equitable policy responses.

| CHAIRS

| MODERATOR

- **Anita Soina**, Founder, Restoration Warriors Africa, Kenya