

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.

| 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

Ilona Kickbusch

Director of the Digital Transformations for Health LAB at the University of Geneva

Co-Chair of the Council of the World Health Summit
Switzerland

Professor Kickbusch is a leading global health expert. She has contributed to many innovations, policies and educational initiatives during her distinguished career. She has received many prizes, honorary degrees and recognitions. Amongst others she was awarded the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesverdienstkreuz) and the WHO Medal for contributions to global health. She is honorary professor at the Charité, Berlin and has appointments at other prestigious universities.

She continues to advise the WHO and is a member of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board. She served as a member of the path-breaking WHO Council on the Economic of Health for All and continues to serve on a wide range of advisory committees. She was key instigator of the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, WHO's Healthy Cities Network as well as other settings projects, WHO's Health Behavior and School Children Survey, health literacy and Health in All Policies. She has always been committed to women's health and rights and initiated the @wgh300 list of women leaders in global health.

She is the founder and Chair of the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and was the director of the Global Health Division at Yale University School of Public Health. She has pioneered new approaches to leadership training in global health: she initiated the first executive training in Global Health Diplomacy and was the program chair of the leaders in health network SCIANA at Salzburg Global. She publishes widely in distinguished journals and is the founder of Health Promotion International.

She was co-chair of the Lancet FT Commission on "Governing health futures 2030: growing up in a digital world" and is now working on following through on its recommendations, especially addressing the digital determinants of health as the director of the DTH-LAB.

She chaired the international advisory board for the development of the German global health strategy, advised on the establishment of the WHO Hub on Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in Berlin and has been involved in German G7 and G20 activities relating to global health as well as the global health initiatives of the German EU presidency in 2020. She works on a continuous basis with EU presidencies on global health and was advisor to the development of a revised EU Global Health Strategy. She is the co-chair of the Council of the World Health Summit and vice-president of the European Health Forum Gastein.

She is a political scientist with a PhD degree from the University of Konstanz.