



HM Government



Dr David Nabarro

Candidate for Director-General
of the World Health Organization

Nominated by the UK Government



I am delighted to support Dr David Nabarro as a candidate to be the next Director-General of the World Health Organization. I am confident that he would provide the strong leadership that the WHO needs to make sure it delivers on the Sustainable Development Goals and helps ensure global health security.

Dr Nabarro offers a huge range and depth of experience to the role. He has worked within the United Nations system, and is able to work with the most senior levels of national governments with confidence. A clinician himself, he also has a wealth of experience at the community level, engaging with civil society to co-produce policy and deliver real change on the ground.

I hope that many of you will be able to meet and engage with Dr Nabarro during the election process. I am sure that you will find him to be an outstanding candidate for the WHO Director-General position, who cares deeply about the health of everyone around the world and has the skills to protect and improve this through leadership of the WHO.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeremy Hunt" in a cursive style.

The Right Honourable Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health



Dr David Nabarro is the outstanding candidate for the role of Director-General of the World Health Organisation. With his experience and long track record, Dr Nabarro would provide the strong, reform-minded leadership that the WHO needs, and Member States expect, to improve the health and increase the prosperity of the world's poorest people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Priti Patel" in a cursive style.

The Right Honourable Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for International Development

Vision

Our world is challenged by a changing climate, violent conflict, persistent poverty and mass migration. The benefits of globalisation and new technologies remain unequally shared. As a result, people face an ever-growing avalanche of threats to their health. I have worked on such issues for over 40 years. As I see it, the need for a robust, reliable and responsive World Health Organization has never been more urgent.

“The need for a robust, reliable and responsive World Health Organization has never been more urgent”

Photo: UNMEER/Simon Ruf



Photo: Pierre-Michel Viot

My priorities

As Director-General, I would ensure the World Health Organization can deliver in the following four key areas:

1

Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda offers a clear roadmap for a more peaceful, equitable and prosperous future within communities and nations. Health is central to the achievement of the SDGs. As a result of my experience in the last year as UN Special Adviser on Sustainable Development I am ready to ensure that the WHO is well-positioned for this new era: I will encourage horizontal, cross-disciplinary, inter-sectoral working that yields measurable results.

2

Transforming the WHO to respond to outbreaks and health emergencies

In times of outbreaks and health emergencies, the WHO is expected to exercise leadership by providing unparalleled technical expertise, while empowering others to act. I have led inter-agency efforts to combat disease threats and outbreaks (including malaria, avian influenza, Ebola, Zika, and cholera). In 2015-2016, I chaired the Advisory Group on the Reform of the WHO's Work in Outbreaks and Emergencies. I am committed to completing the work needed to solidify the WHO's capacity to respond to outbreaks and health emergencies.

3

Trusted engagement with Member States

National authorities have the primary responsibility to promote the health of their people, but health objectives cannot be achieved without the full engagement of people and civil society, as well as decisive leadership and strong commitment from governments. The WHO needs to be a trusted partner of all governments while holding itself to the pledge that world leaders themselves made in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. I have consistently sought to engage with Member States in ways that are respectful and reliable, consistent, transparent and accountable.

4

Advancing people-centred health policies

Ever since the Primary Health Care Movement in the 1970s, the WHO has advocated people-centred policies for health. Implementation depends on there being spaces in which organisations working for people's health engage openly with other stakeholders. It calls for consistent attention to the capabilities and circumstances of care providers. I continue to champion the interests of all who work to sustain people's health everywhere – including within households, communities, work-places, health care facilities and institutions.

My strengths

What I would bring to the role of Director-General of the World Health Organization

“The role of the WHO is not only to ensure that all people attain the highest possible level of health, but also to ensure that the attainment of health contributes to global peace and prosperity”

One: A Clear Vision - Health Underpins Global Security

My different roles have deepened my conviction that health is inextricably linked with the three pillars on which the United Nations was founded: peace and security, human rights and development. As a specialised agency within the UN system, the World Health Organization has a vital role to play. Not only to ensure that all people attain the highest possible level of health, but also to ensure that the attainment of health contributes to global peace and prosperity.

Two: A lifetime spent tackling Complex Global Challenges

For over 40 years I have served in International Public Health as a practitioner in communities, as an educator, as an international public servant and as a diplomat. In the past decade, I have been appointed by successive Secretaries-General of the United Nations to manage the most complex and urgent challenges of our time. These include ending malnutrition, promoting food security, combating the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, generating global momentum for sustainable development and advancing international action on climate change. Presently I advise the UN Global Health Crisis Task Force and lead the UN response to Cholera in Haiti.

Three: An Inclusive and accountable style of leadership

I lead through bringing different groups of stakeholders together and ensuring that they work in support of sub-national and national authorities. I encourage actions based on analyses of evidence and the development of common understanding, respect for different points of view and structured dialogue. I seek to maintain spaces in which standards are developed, principles are established and procedures are agreed. I encourage partnering that maximises the contributions of different actors in a transparent and accountable way.



Photo: swiss-image.ch/Photo
Michael Wuertenberg

Four: Experience in Managing Organisational Change

Global Health leadership is vital and must be earned. Threats of, and responses to, ill health do not respect national boundaries. People everywhere need to be confident that leadership exists, covers the world and functions in their interest. Leadership should engage people whose health is most at risk: their voices should be heard and actions should empower them to enjoy better health. The World Health Organization is called on to advance global health in ways that help nations and their people face up to health challenges. To do this they expect the WHO to function as a single well-integrated organisation that works on behalf of, and for the future of, all people in the world. I have experience in designing and leading organisational change. For example, between 2015 and 2016 I served as chair of an Expert Group advising the WHO Director-General on the WHO's work in relation to disease outbreaks and health emergencies. In 1999 I assisted the WHO Director-General to introduce results-based management across the organisation. I have the capabilities needed to help WHO evolve as the undisputed leader for human health security throughout the world.

“Global Health leadership is vital and must be earned. Threats of, and responses to, ill health do not respect national boundaries”



Photo: Pierre-Michel Viot

Curriculum Vitae

January 2016 – present: Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change.

November 2009 – present: Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition.

July 2015 – January 2016: Chair, Advisory Group on Reform of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Work in Outbreaks and Emergencies with Health and Humanitarian Consequences.

September 2010 – September 2014: Coordinator of the Movement to Scale Up Nutrition.

Commissioner 2013 – 14: Member of the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (2016).

August 2014 – December 2015: Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Ebola.

April 2008 – April 2014: Coordinator of the UN System High Level Task Force on Food Security.

September 2005 – 2014: UN System Senior Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza (Assistant Secretary-General).

2003 – 2005: Head of WHO's Health Emergencies group (Health Action in Crises), and Special Representative of Director-General.

2002 – 2003: Head, WHO Cluster on Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments.

2000 – 2002: Executive Director, Office of the WHO Director-General.

1999 – 2000: Executive Director, WHO Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Programme.

1990 – 1999: Director, Human Development, Chief Health and Population Adviser, UK Government Department for International Development (Formerly Overseas Development Administration).

For more information visit
davidnabarro.info

Education

- Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London (FRCP)
- Membership of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine (MFPHM) Royal College of Physicians (by distinction)
- Master's (MSc) in Public Health (Developing Countries), London University
- Medical Degree (BM BCH), Oxford University (Clinical training at University College Hospital, London)
- Master's (MSc) in Medicine (Research in Reproductive Endocrinology), Oxford University
- First degree (BA, later MA) in Animal Physiology and Biochemistry, Oxford University

Awards

2015 Helen Keller Humanitarian Award

Awarded for work on positioning malnutrition within the development dialogue and for ensuring an effective response to Ebola.

2012 Sight and Life Nutrition Leadership Award (together with the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement)

For work in catalysing sustainable change in global nutrition.

2008 Distinguished Service Award from Health Policy Institute, Kansas University of Medicine & Biosciences

For outstanding Health Policy Leadership.

1992 CBE

Awarded for work on international public health.