

Building better global health preparedness and response for the future: How to take recommendations forward?

Webinar organized by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI).

Thursday 10th June, 11am – 1230 pm CET at Teams.

Abstract

The Covid19 pandemic has had devastating effects on peoples' health and wellbeing, on national health systems and economies across the world. However, the burden is far from equally shared – as became clear during this year's World Health Assembly where a strong call for global solidarity was made. How did we end up here? What are the lessons learned and how do we move forward with concrete action to ensure future infectious disease outbreaks do not become another catastrophic pandemic with such far-reaching and inequitable implications?

The purpose of this webinar is to present the main conclusions from three important panels to a wider community of people and organizations in Norway. We want to keep the momentum and stimulate discussions for action. We will hear from members of three of the independent panels that have evaluated the world's response to the Covid19 pandemic. What do they propose and why? And what do they consider the next steps to be? What came out of the discussions during the World Health Assembly?

In the discussion we hope to focus on how we can move on from fine words to concrete action, and on what is required to address the inequitable implications of the current pandemic and of future global health emergencies. What can be the role for Norway and for the Norwegian Institute of Public Health?

The webinar will be chaired by Dr. Frode Forland, Specialist Director, Infectious Disease Control, FHI.

Speakers

Anders Nordstrøm, Head of Secretariat, Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR)

Dr Anders Nordstrøm served as the Head of the Secretariat of IPPPR and holds the position as Ambassador for Global Health at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He has served on the Boards of UNAIDS, GAVI- the Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, where he also served as interim Executive Director and as member of the Ethics and Governance Committee. Dr Nordstrøm has previously served as the World Health Organization's Assistant Director-General for General Management, Acting Director-General and Assistant Director-General for Health Systems and Service, and as Director-General for the Swedish International Agency for Development Cooperation (Sida).

Ian Smith, Head of the Secretariat of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB)

Dr Ian Smith is head of the secretariat of the GPMB. Dr Smith also serves as a senior advisor to the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, having previously served as Executive Director of the Office of the Director-General and Advisor to the two previous Director-Generals, Dr Margaret Chan and Dr Lee Jong-wook.

Preben Aavitsland, Rapporteur for the IHR Review Committee on Covid-19

Dr Preben Aavitsland is Rapporteur of the IHR Review Committee on Covid-19 and served on the 2010-2011 Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) in relation to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009. He is a Chief Municipal Medical Officer of Arendal city in Norway, Director of the research company Epidemi, President of the Norwegian Association of Municipal Medical Epidemiologists, and Special Adviser at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Dr Aavitsland has also served as state epidemiologist of Norway (2002-2012), as member of the Advisory Forum of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the EU's Network Committee for Communicable Diseases.

Njål Høstmælingen, Acting Director for Global Health, FHI

Njål Høstmælingen is a lawyer specialized in international law and serves as acting director for global health at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. He has served as the deputy director at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and head of the National Institution of Human Rights, and has written several books on human rights. He was the founder of the International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI) in Norway and has long-term experience from participating in and heading multidisciplinary research and implementation projects in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

[Program](#)

Welcome and introduction by Dr. Frode Forland

Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response by Dr. Anders Nordstrøm

IHR Review Committee by Dr. Preben Aavitsland

Global Preparedness Monitoring Board by Dr. Ian Smith

Commentary by Njål Høstmælingen

Discussion focused on:

- How to move on from fine words to action?
- How to address the inequitable implications of the pandemic today?
- Is the pandemic treaty a solution, problem or distraction?

Concluding remarks by Dr. Frode Forland