



H.E. Ambassador Antje Leendertse
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations,
Co-Facilitator of the Summit for the Future

H.E. Ambassador Neville Melvin Gertze
Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations,
Co-Facilitator of the Summit for the Future

21 December 2023

Submission to the consultation on the Summit of the Future

Your excellencies Ambassador Leendertse and Ambassador Gertze,

In May, the [2023 progress report on the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All](#) (SDG3 GAP) was published by 13 global agencies that play significant roles in health, development and humanitarian responses, including the World Health Organization.

This year's progress report highlights that "even before COVID-19, the world was off track on major health-related indicators. Now, it is even further behind, and many countries face a range of overlapping health crises stemming from the impact of the pandemic, war, food insecurity and climate change".

The World Health Professions Alliance, representing 41 million health professionals in over 130 countries worldwide across dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and physiotherapy, is deeply concerned that health, and in particular progress on SDG3, is not highlighted or explicitly mentioned in the priority topics of the Summit of the Future, to take place during the United Nations General Assembly in New York City, in September 2024.

Equal access to health, including appropriate health workforce capacity of adequately trained healthcare professionals, is essential not only to ensure the achievement of SDG3, but in fact, for the achievement of all SDGs, as the basis for all human endeavours and societal development.

The Summit of the Future's [website](#) states that this event is a "once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance, reaffirm existing commitments including to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Charter, and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's lives." This aspiration is simply unachievable if health is not part of the discussion nor elevated high enough on the agenda.



World Health Professions Alliance WHPA

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We urge the United Nations to expand the scope of the Summit to include an in-depth discussion of health, and particularly progress on SDG3, including progress on global workforce development and capacity to meet the needs of health systems and populations in all nations. In addition, health needs to be centralized and well-reflected in the planned discussions of a post-2030 agenda to protect and promote the well-being of everyone everywhere. We express our willingness and commitment to work with the United Nations and actively contribute to the programme of the Summit from that perspective.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Kruger
WHPA Chair and CEO of World Physiotherapy

