

Title (maximum 25 words):

Policy dialogue: Making national health planning more people centred by involving individuals, families, communities and services providers in the health sector decision making process

Session type:

Participatory session – ‘World Economic Forum’- style open debate

Field-building dimension and, for cutting-edge research only, research topic:

Research topic: governance, accountability, and participation

Contributor details: the chair or moderator as well as a maximum of five named additional contributors, who will play active roles in the session

Moderator:

Tim Evans, Senior Director, Health Global Practice, World Bank

Keynote speaker:

Delanyo Dovlo, Director, Health Systems and Services, Africa Regional Office, WHO

Additional contributors:

Hippolyte Kalambay, Director, Directorate of Planning, DR Congo

Agnes Soucat, Director, Human Development, African Development Bank

Walter Seidel, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Development, European Commission

Osamu Kunii, Director, Head of Strategy, Investment and Impact Division, The Global Fund

A 300 word (maximum) summary of the session content including purpose/objective, technical content, target audience, significance for the selected field-building dimension

Policy dialogue is one of the key channels through which the health needs and preferences of individuals, families, and communities, as well as the rights and needs of those who work in and for health systems come together. World Health Organization (WHO), in a partnership with the European Union (EU) and Luxemburg, has put in place a programme in 19¹ middle- and low-income countries to actively technically support policy dialogue processes according to the specific and unique context of this diverse set of countries, ranging from Chad to Vietnam to Tunisia. In this session, we compare and contrast the understanding and perception of policy dialogue as both a linear and non-linear process, examine the roles of various country stakeholders (health and other public sectors, individuals, communities, civil society, bilateral and multilateral donors, global health initiatives), and unpack what it takes to make policy dialogue truly give voice to those who need it most.

This is an innovative approach for generating knowledge of, and engaging people in action towards more people-centred health systems. Contributors will provide the perspective of countries, global health initiatives and major donors on the way the approach contributes to more people-centred national health policies, strategies and plans. The target audience is, besides the country participants, the donor community, civil society, and those whose voice should be part and parcel of the health policy process.

¹ Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, DR Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Moldova, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Vietnam, Yemen

A 300 word (maximum) summary of the session's planned process including: short description of any presentations or inputs, the moderation or management approach of the session, the role of contributors – both those named above and any others with planned roles, and a rough breakdown as to how the 90 minutes will be used.

This session funded by WHO will be done in the 'World Economic Forum' format ("WEF" open debate style). There will be no presentations. Tim Evans will bring in his vast experience as a moderator of such open debate sessions. The other 5 contributors will provide inputs moderated by both the moderator as well as the audience. The "WEF" style explicitly puts the audience at the centre of the debate allocating the majority of session time to interactive dialogue.

Annual multi-country meetings with the 19 target countries have allowed representatives from the various country settings to interact with one another and debate on what policy dialogue is, how it can be organized, possible entry points, and the roles of different stakeholders. The moderator of this session will take the rich experience from this WHO-led programme and guide the open debate towards the key issues at hand.

The policy-maker from DR Congo was selected based on his leading role in DR Congo's health policy dialogue with domestic and international stakeholders. Walter Seidel will bring in the EU-donor perspective on this innovative approach of technically supporting policy dialogue in a more targeted way. The African Development Bank (AfDB) is at the forefront of inter-sectoral collaboration between Ministries of Finance and Ministries of Health in the African region. AfDB input will be focused on health policy dialogue with other sectors. As the majority of the 19 countries are aid-dependent, Osamu Kunii will bring in the perspective of Global Health Initiatives and the considerable weight and influence they bring into aid-dependent countries' policy dialogue processes.

The moderator and contributors will be adequately prepared for the open debate and potential questions raised by the audience. The moderator will begin with leading statements and allow for short responses from contributors. Thereafter, all questions will come from the audience via the moderator.