

Opening Remark

Honorable Ministers, Heads of Global Organizations

Dear Peers, Friends and Colleagues from Global Health community,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Welcome to the 11th **World Health Summit Annual Meeting** in historical and beautiful Berlin.

“Science has to take responsibility” to reach optimal health, which is in turn an essential human need and right. The complexity of modern life and globalization creates loads of unhealthy events and necessitates us, as global health advocates, to do our utmost efforts to produce, disseminate and implement what is good for people’s health worldwide. This is exactly why we are here today. With cutting-edge science and technology at our disposal, to address multidimensional and difficult challenges of global health, we need solidarity and compassion, now, more than ever. Exchanging ideas and learning from each other is the most effective way to make our greatest hopes for a better world, a reality in the future. We need to keep communicating with each other and remain united for global health.

As International President of WHS 2019, I have personally experienced the great potential of the World Health Summit to translate knowledge into better health and the true meaning of working together.

The very successful 7th WHS Regional Meeting in Kish-Island, Islamic Republic of Iran that hosted over 800 participants, including 120 world-class scholars from 47 countries, at the time of the toughest unilateral sanctions against an ancient and peaceful nation, was precisely a clear sign of World Health Summits’ vision in prioritizing humanity and health over political considerations and unreal boundaries.

This is the beginning of a long way, of course, that we have to follow: applying beneficial knowledge in an equitable and affordable way anywhere in our planet.

Let me finish by wishing all of you three days of constructive and stimulating dialogue, exchange and learning, and beginning new collaborations, all towards greater unity for global health.

Thank you!