

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Committee on Budgets**  
*in association with the Committee on Development*

**Implementation and Financing of COVAX: Successes,  
Challenges and Lessons for the Future**

**Tuesday, 17 May 2022, 09.30 - 12.00**  
**Altiero Spinelli 3G3**

**Speakers**

## BIOGRAPHY OF TED CHAIBAN

Ted Chaiban was appointed as Global Lead Coordinator for the COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership in February 2022.

Previously working for UNICEF, he has been Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Director of Programmes, Director of Emergency Programmes, Representative in Ethiopia, Sudan and Sri Lanka, Regional Emergency Advisor for the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office and Deputy Chief of Operations for the Operation Lifeline Sudan consortium based in Nairobi.

Prior to joining UNICEF, Mr. Chaiban was Country Representative for Catholic Relief Services in Haiti, Kenya, Uganda and Sudan. He also worked as a Programme Manager focusing on food security and child survival.

Mr. Chaiban is a national of both Lebanon and the United States of America. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and Political Science from Tufts University and a Master of Arts Degree in Development and Arab Studies from Georgetown University, the United States of America.



## [Dr John N. Nkengasong, MSc, PhD](#)

Director, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention  
African Union Commission

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Twitter: [@JNkengasong](#)



Dr John Nkengasong currently serves as Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, a specialized technical institution of the African Union.

In early 2020, he was appointed as one of the WHO Director-General's Special Envoys on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response. In addition, Dr Nkengasong was most recently awarded the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's 2020 Global Goalkeeper Award for his contributions to the continental response in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. In 2021, he was recognized at one of 100 Times Magazine's most influential people; one of 50 Fortune Magazine's great leaders; and Bloomberg Business Magazine 50 influential people.

---

Prior to his current position, he served as Acting Deputy Principal Director of the Center for Global Health and Chief of the International Laboratory Branch, Division of Global HIV and TB for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr Nkengasong holds a master's degree in tropical biomedical science from the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, and a doctorate in medical sciences (virology), from the University of Brussels, Belgium.

Dr Nkengasong has received numerous awards for his work including Sheppard Award, the William Watson Medal of Excellence, the highest recognition awarded by the US CDC. He is also recipient of the Knight of Honour Medal by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, was knighted in 2017 as the Officer of Loin by the President of Senegal, H.E. Macky Sall, and Knighted in November 2018 by the government of Cameroon for his significant contributions to public health. He is an adjunct professor at the Emory School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

He serves on several international advisory boards including the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Initiative (CEPI) and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), among others. He has authored over 250 peer-review articles in international journals and published several book chapters.

---

## **Lisa Goerlitz**

Lisa Goerlitz is the Head of EU Advocacy and Head of Brussels office at the development NGO DSW. DSW focusses on different matters of global health, including in particular sexual and reproductive health and rights and R&I for poverty-related diseases, and works in close collaboration with a coalition of health focused civil society organisations.

Before joining DSW, Lisa Goerlitz worked with different organisations and foundations on political education, and with the General Secretariat of Amnesty International Germany on advocacy towards the German government.

Lisa Goerlitz is a political scientist by training, with a focus on international human rights.



## **DR SETH BERKLEY CEO, GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE**

A pioneer in global public health for more than 35 years, Dr Seth Berkley has been a champion of equitable access to vaccines and of innovation, and a driving force to improve the way the world prevents and responds to infectious disease. A medical doctor and infectious disease epidemiologist, Dr Berkley joined Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance as its CEO in August 2011. Under his leadership, Gavi has accelerated global immunisation access in its mission to save lives, reduce poverty and protect the world against the threat of epidemics and pandemics.

During his tenure, Gavi has increased coverage of routine immunisation in lower-income countries: even during the COVID-19 pandemic, Gavi helps protect nearly half the world's children, vaccinating more than 888 million children in just over two decades, reducing vaccine-preventable child deaths by 70% and preventing more than 15 million future deaths. He has also played a pivotal role in changing the way the world prevents and responds to global health crises, by helping accelerate the development of and access to powerful new vaccines against diseases such as Ebola; and he has led the way in ensuring emergency vaccine stockpiles for diseases of epidemic potential, including Ebola, yellow fever and cholera. Dr Berkley has taken the case for vaccine

equity and placed it at the centre of the global health agenda, warning of the growing threat of pandemics in the face of global trends like climate change, urbanisation, population growth, conflict, human migration and antimicrobial resistance.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Berkley co-created COVAX, the only global multilateral solution aimed at ending the acute phase of the pandemic by providing equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for people in all countries, regardless of their ability to pay. As a leader of COVAX, Dr Berkley has helped drive the international COVID-19 pandemic response by working with partners and the leaders of 193 economies to put in place the mechanisms and funding to secure and deliver billions of COVID-19 vaccine doses to people in 92 lower-income countries to ensure that no one is left behind.

Under Dr Berkley's leadership, in 2019 Gavi received the Lasker-Bloomberg Public Service Award for providing sustained access to childhood vaccines in the world's poorest countries, and in 2020 the Princess of Asturias Award for International Cooperation. Since 2020, Dr Berkley has led Gavi's efforts to raise US\$ 21 billion for its core programmes and COVID-19 vaccine procurement. In 2021, *Fortune* listed Dr Berkley as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders.

Prior to Gavi, in 1996, Dr Berkley founded the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), the first vaccine product development public-private sector partnership, where he served as President and CEO for 15 years. Under his leadership, IAVI created a virtual vaccine product development effort involving scientists from low-income countries, industry and academia – developing and testing HIV vaccines around the world. He also oversaw a global advocacy programme that ensured HIV vaccines received prominent attention in the media and in forums such as the G8, the European Union and the United Nations. Previously, Dr Berkley served as an officer of the Health Sciences Division at The Rockefeller Foundation. He has worked for the Center for Infectious Diseases of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; and the Carter Center, where he was assigned as an epidemiologist at the Ministry of Health in Uganda, playing a key role in Uganda's first national HIV sero-survey and helping develop its national AIDS Control Program.

He has been featured on the cover of *Newsweek* magazine; recognised by *TIME* magazine as one of "The TIME 100 – The World's Most Influential People"; and named by *WIRED* magazine as among "The WIRED 25 – a salute to dreamers, inventors, mavericks, leaders." His TED talks have been viewed by more than 2.4 million people, and he has published hundreds of articles and opinion pieces. He has consulted or worked in more than 50 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Dr Berkley sits on a number of international steering committees and corporate and not-for-profit boards; has held academic appointments at Brown, Columbia and New York Universities; and is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Geneva's Institute of Global Health in the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr Berkley received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Brown University and trained in internal medicine at Harvard University. In 2013, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, for services to global public health and advancing the right to health care for all. In 2021, Dr Berkley received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Makerere University School of Public Health in Uganda.

## **Kate O'Brien, MD, MPH**

Director,  
Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals Department  
World Health Organization  
20 avenue Appia, Room M121  
CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland



## **KATHERINE (Kate) L. O'BRIEN, MD, MPH**

Dr Kate O'Brien is the Director of the Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) Department at the World Health Organization (WHO). In this role she is responsible for leading WHO's strategy and implementation to advance the vision of a world where everyone, everywhere, at every age, fully benefits from vaccines for good health and wellbeing. The Department works across all levels of WHO (countries, regions and headquarters) in collaboration with partners, to support countries in achieving the optimum use and impact of vaccines. Dr O'Brien serves as WHO's alternative representative on the Board of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and representative on the Programme and Policy Committee (PPC) of the Board. She also serves as WHO's Technical Lead of the COVID Vaccine Pillar (COVAX), a part of the Access to COVID Tools Accelerator (ACT-A). COVAX aims to support countries to achieve their goals toward the Global COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy for 2022, released by WHO and the UN Secretary General in October 2021. It establishes the health, social and economic goals of the vaccine effort and establishes a target of 70% full vaccine coverage by mid-2022.

Dr O'Brien is a Canadian pediatric infectious disease physician, epidemiologist and vaccinologist. She earned her Bachelor of Science in chemistry from University of Toronto (Canada), her MD from McGill University (Canada), and her MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (US) before completing her training at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer, in the Respiratory Diseases Branch. Prior to joining WHO, she was Professor of International Health and Epidemiology and Executive Director of the International Vaccine Access Center at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research and policy work over the past 30 years has focused on vaccine equity and impact through disease and risk-factor epidemiology studies, clinical field trials of novel vaccines, etiology studies of pneumonia, vaccine impact and effectiveness evaluations, modeling of disease burden, and policy analyses to drive decision making. She has worked in countries in south Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Caribbean, as well as with American Indian tribes in the southwestern United States.