



Plenary 3 Summary

Lessons learned from past experiences about how to prevent, prepare for, and respond to pandemic threats, all provide extremely valuable direction for future efforts. Unfortunately, as participants pointed out, the global community has been largely unsuccessful in institutionalizing those lessons and rectifying the problems and systemic gaps these experiences have illuminated. There is hope for the future, however, and new partnerships, like the one announced at the Summit between the WHO and major pharmaceutical companies with regard to pre-pandemic vaccines, are perfect examples.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has taught us that that miscommunication and misinformation leads to panic, unhealthy behavior, and lasting public distrust. Yet, we remain nowhere near a coordinated global communications strategy for infectious disease.

Similarly, no access plan has been put in place to deliver the human papillomavirus vaccine to developing countries—an intervention that is effective,

safe, and sure to prevent a significant number of deaths. Likewise, even in countries where seasonal flu vaccine is available and affordable, a large percentage of the population remains unimmunized.

HIV and tuberculosis experiences serve as reminders that the poor are the hardest hit by disasters—whether they are disease outbreaks, earthquakes, floods, or violence.

Incentives are key to bringing all stakeholders together—from multi-national corporations and governments to community hospitals and frontline health workers—so that strategies can be more effective and farther-reaching. Such incentives may be financial or political, but their existence is critical. We will not be able to rely on altruism and self-sacrifice if we truly expect transparency and cooperation from all our neighbors before, during, and in the aftermath of a pandemic flu outbreak.

A global infrastructure for disease prevention and response that is both effective and equitable is a goal all countries and institutions continue to work toward and one that will be critically important to preventing and preparing for an influenza pandemic.

A global infrastructure for disease prevention and response that is both effective

and equitable is a goal all countries and institutions continue to work toward and one that will be critically important to preventing and preparing for an influenza pandemic.

Moderator:

Bill Crouse
Worldwide Health Director
Microsoft Corporation

Panelists:

Seth Berkley
President and CEO
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

Nils Daulaire
President
Global Health Council

Julio Frenk
Senior Fellow
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Depei Liu
President
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College

Christopher Murray
Director, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
University of Washington

Unless there is a real sense of engagement and sovereignty on the part of the person who is right there dealing with the first case, either in terms of reporting it or addressing it, you're going to have things spin out of control before the national or global authorities will be able to weigh in.

- Nils Daulaire