PMAC PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2023

PL 2

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH AT THE BIODIVERSITY-CLIMATE NEXUS

| BACKGROUND

Unabated biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution are the leading global health challenges of our time. Our dysfunctional global food system is at the heart of this “triple planetary crisis” and holistic multisectoral approaches to health, such as One Health and planetary health, are at the heart of solutions to bridge the persistent and growing health challenges they pose. At the same time, ecosystem-based approaches, or nature-based solutions, that embed health co-benefits offer essential opportunities to meet the adaptation and mitigation commitments set out in the Paris Agreement and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when combined with food system transformation, technological innovation, a green energy transition and the necessary socio-political and economic conditions to achieve equity and social justice.

| OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of sub-theme 2 will be to take in-depth look at the common drivers of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, and the impact of these environmental determinants, coupled with social, political and economic determinants on health outcomes. It will focus both on underlying systemic challenges at this nexus and key opportunities to overcome them in the path toward sustainable transformational change. It will further seek to catalyze health leadership, from local to global levels, by drawing on existing evidence and knowledge through more coordinated, ambitious and inclusive multi-sectoral approaches to inform evidence-based policies and actions. It will also seek to identify key opportunities to maximize health co-benefits and minimize trade-offs at the biodiversity-climate nexus, and to build both social and ecological resilience, and resilient health systems and societies, in the face of global environmental change.

Keynote / Moderator / Panelist

David Nabarro

Adviser for Sustainability

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David Nabarro is Co-Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation and Professor of Global Health at Imperial College London. He established the Geneva-based social enterprise Skills, Systems and Synergies for Sustainable Development (4SD) with Florence Lasbennes in 2018. 4SD accompanies development practitioners from local and national Governments, civil society, professional organizations, business enterprises, academic institutions as they advance the transformation of complex people-centred systems. (www.4sd.info)

Through 4SD, David serves as Special Envoy of the UN World Health Organization Director General on COVID-19, advises the UN Food and Agriculture Organization on follow up to the September 2021 Food Systems Summit (www.summitdialogues.org), and leads the Food Workstream in the UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance (GCRG). This was established by the UN Secretary-General in March 2022. Through the GCRG the UN is responding to the immense pressures faced by governments and households as a result of extraordinary increases in the cost-of-living, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. The GCRG calls for policy measures that link urgent action with long-term sustainable and equitable development. The three GCRG briefs, and information on the UN-brokered Black Sea Grain Initiative, are available at https://news.un.org/pages/global-crisis-response-group/.

David secured his medical qualification in 1974 and has worked internationally in multiple clinical and public health roles in governments, NGOs and universities. He held positions within the UN System between 1999 and 2017, including Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (S-G) for Food Security and Nutrition, and Under-Secretary-General (and Special Adviser to the S-G) on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change.

In October 2018, David received the World Food Prize together with Lawrence Haddad for their leadership in building coalitions for action for better nutrition across the Sustainable Development Goals.