Programme

Saturday, 16 May 2026

8:30 - 8:45 **Welcome & Registration**

8:45 - 9:00 **Opening of World Heart Summit 2026**
Dr. Jagat Narula, President, World Heart Federation

09:00 – 10:00 **2025 moved the needle: what comes next? Discussion on UHC, National Action Plans, and the momentum for cardiovascular health**
Aim: The session aims to examine how recent political and policy momentum for cardiovascular health in 2025 can be translated into concrete action, by identifying what must come next to strengthen national action plans, advance universal health coverage, secure sustainable financing, and improve prevention and access to care.
Dr. Kenneth Connell, President, Healthy Caribbean CoalitionKristina Sparreljung, Secretary General, Swedish Heart and Lung Foundation Junbo Ge, President, Chinese Cardiovascular AssociationLilian Mbau, Medical Director, CARDIHUBSophie Millar, EACH Secretariat

10:00–10:45 **Launch of World Heart Report 2026 on congenital heart disease – latest findings**
Aim: The aim of this session is to present key findings and insights from the World Heart Report 2026, focusing on congenital heart disease (CHD). The session will highlight the current global and regional burden of CHD and the impacts it has from birth throughout adulthood. It will also showcase successful evidence-based examples of policy interventions and the lived experiences of patients and families of those living with CHD, emphasizing the need for integrated screening, diagnostic and treatment strategies.
Dr. Mariachiara di Cesare, Professor, Professor University of EssexDorairaj Prabhakaran, President Elect, World Heart FederationDr. R Krishna Kumar, Head of the Department of Pediatric Cardiology, Amrita HospitalTanya Hall, Founder/CEO and Board Member, Hearts4heart; World Heart FederationBistra Zheleva, Global Advocate, Children's HeartLink

10:45–11:15 **Networking Break**

11:15–12:00 **Panel: Public trust, AI and the future of digital health**
Aim: The session aims to explore how artificial intelligence can be used responsibly to strengthen public trust in digital cardiovascular health, address mis- and disinformation, and clarify the roles of governments and other stakeholders in digital ethics, while encouraging panellists to commit to concrete, practical actions to improve the reliability of digital health information over the coming year.
Naman Gosalia, Founder, AnginaX AIMyriam Giselle Vidal Valero, JournalistJohn Harold, Professor, Cedars-Sinai Health Sciences UniversityRoxana Mehran, President, American College of Cardiology (ACC)Moritz Hundertmark, Cardiologist and Clinical Scientist, Bern University Hospital

12:00–12:45 **Geneva Heart Walk & Outdoor Networking**

12:45–13:45 **Lunch**

13:45 - 14:30 **Panel: Nutrition, food systems, and healthy futures**
Aim: This session will examine how nutrition policy, food systems, and emerging innovations are shaping cardiovascular health outcomes worldwide. It will explore the roles of regulation, public policy, commercial actors, and medical interventions, and how new therapeutic developments can complement food and nutrition policies.
Latifat Okara, Founder, NomNom BabiesLynnette Neufeld, Director of the Food and Nutrition Division, FAODiana McGhie, Lead of Health Policy, World Economic Forum (WEF)Tom Frieden, President and CEO, Resolve to Save Lives Flavia Geraldes, Senior Editor, The Lancet

14:30 - 15:20 **Panel: Cities leading for healthy living**
Aim: The session aims to highlight how cities can lead on cardiovascular disease prevention and equity through urban policies on mobility, air quality, urban design, access to services and city-level health systems, while inviting city leaders to commit to participation in the City Beat Index as a practical step to accelerate action and accountability.
Diarmid Campbell Lendrum, Head of Climate Change, Energy, and Air Quality Unit, World Health OrganizationJagat Narula, President, World Heart FederationLykke Schmidt, Prevention Project Director, Novo NordiskDonna Fitzsimons, Professor and Contributor, Queens University Belfast; Cities@HeartVanitha Thurairasu, Public Health Registrar Officer, Ministry of Health Malaysia

15:20 - 15:45 **Break**

15:45 - 16:45 **Panel: LMICs and the global health architecture: challenges and opportunities as aid declines**

Aim: The session aims to examine how declining development assistance and shifts in the global health architecture are reshaping the financing and sustainability of health systems in LMICs, and to explore how countries can respond by strengthening domestic health financing, rethinking priorities, and leveraging this transition as an opportunity to elevate historically underfunded issues within national health agendas.

Haileyesus Getahun, CEO, CeHDIElijah Ogola, Professor and Board Member , University of Nairobi; World Heart FederationAnu Gomanju, Patient advocate for ending Rheumatic Heart Disease Liesl Zuhlke, Paediatric Cardiologist, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, South AfricaSizwile Sibindi, Co-CEO, Financing Alliance for HealthJeremias Paul Jr, Head of the Fiscal Policies for Health Unit, World Health Organization

16:45 - 17:15 **Roundtable: next generation and action**

Aim: The session aims to amplify the voices of the next generation of health professionals, explore how emerging challenges of the coming decade such as climate change and mental health are reshaping cardiovascular and public health priorities, and inspire concrete action and leadership from the young medical corps.

Sanja Sisovic, President, Youth Health Organization Stephanie Sargeant, Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator, Act4Food; Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)Gustavo Dalle Cort, Liaison Officer for Public Health Issues, International Federation of Medical Students Association - IFMSAFrancesca Musso, Lived Experience Representative

Sunday, 17 May 2026

09:00–09:10 **Intro remarks, sum-up of previous day and what to expect today**

09:10-09:40 **Innovator Spotlight- Interview with health leader(s) on new approaches to prevention and treatment.**

Aim: The session aims to spotlight innovative leaders and practical, scalable approaches to cardiovascular prevention and treatment that bridge science, service delivery, and policy, including a focus on solutions that address rare, neglected, and underserved cardiovascular conditions, including through telemedicine, AI-enabled care models, and system integration in LMICs.

Thomas Clozel, CEO & Co-Founder, OWKINDr. Clara Chow, Professor, University of SydneyDenis Xavier, Professor and Head, Pharmacology, and Head, Division of Clinical Research and Training, St. John's Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore, India

09:40–10:40 **Ministerial panel: Controlling hypertension at scale**

Aim: The session aims to showcase how countries are scaling up hypertension control through concrete policy reforms, investments, and service delivery innovations, including efforts to address pregnancy-related hypertension and gender disparities in cardiovascular care, while encouraging ministers to highlight proven interventions and partnerships that have delivered measurable impact and can be replicated at scale.

Prof. Mohamed Hassany, Assistant Minister of Health for Projects and Public Health Initiatives, EgpytDr. Nirada Kuptapong, Medical Physician, Professional Level (Specialist) Echocardiology Specialist Consult cardiologist Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Public Health, ThailandDr. Gladwell Gathecha, Senior epidemiologist, Ministry of Health, Kenya

10:40–11:00 **Networking and Coffee break**

11:00–11:30 **Panel: Shifting behaviour at population scale**

Aim: The session aims to examine how environments, policies, and systemic factors shape population health behaviours, exploring strategies from behavioural "nudges" to fiscal measures like taxes that can drive meaningful cardiovascular health improvements at scale, while critically assessing whether current approaches risk treating symptoms rather than addressing underlying structural drivers.

Ilona Kickbusch, Founder, Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute in GenevaEugenia Ramos, Executive Director, InterAmerican Heart FoundationRobert Marten, Partnership and Strategy Officer, Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research at the World Health OrganisationChristoph Huber, Chief Physician of the Cardiovascular Surgery Department, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève

11:30 – 12:00 **Panel: Making lipid control a global health priority**

Aim: This session will examine the global state of dyslipidaemia management and explore what is needed to translate recent progress into meaningful cardiovascular health gains. Dyslipidaemia remains a major cardiovascular risk factor, with high LDL-C responsible for over 30% of ischaemic heart disease. While momentum is building through initiatives such as WHO's development of dyslipidaemia guidelines and the EU Safe Hearts call for expanded LDL-C testing and improved screening for Lp(a) and familial hypercholesterolaemia, persistent gaps in diagnosis, treatment, and health system capacity continue to limit impact – underscoring the need for coordinated, system-level action.

Dr. Kouamivi Agboyibor, WHOAmiee Aloi, Executive Director of Global Health Policy, MSDRam Khandelwal, Founder and CEO, Heart Health India FoundationRony Shimony, Director of Cardiology and a Cardiologist, Atria Institute; Mount Sinai HospitalFausto Pinto, Past President, World Heart Federation

12:00-12:45 **Closing Plenary – Turning Political Commitments on NCDs into Measurable Action (joint session with NCDA)**

Aim: The session aims to explore how renewed global political commitments on NCDs, including cardiovascular disease, can be translated into measurable action, by strengthening accountability, national reporting, civil society engagement, and collaboration among global, regional, and national actors to ensure sustained implementation and real-world impact beyond the UN High-Level Meeting.

Bente Mikkelsen, Chair Advocacy Steering Committee, World Heart FederationLeslie Rae Ferat, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Tobacco ControlHyvelle Ferguson Davis, Founder, Heart SistasMohamed Janabi, AFRO Regional director, WHO

12:45–13:15 **Summit priorities and closing session**

Dr. Jagat Narula, President, World Heart FederationDavid Lloyd, CEO, Australian Heart FoundationDorairaj Prabhakaran, President Elect, World Heart Federation

13:15 - 14:00 **Lunch**