Seventy-second World Health Assembly / Soixante douzième Assemblée mondiale de la Santé
Palais des Nations
May 2019 / Mai 2019

Side event application / Formulaire de demande de réunion parallèle

Contact

Name/Nom: Gabrielle Lamourelle
Date of application/Date de la demande: March 29, 2019

Delegation(s)/Délégation(s): United States of America, the Delegation of the European Union, Romania, Canada

Telephone, Email/Téléphone, courriel: +1-202-260-6034; gabrielle.lamourelle@hhs.gov

Concept

Description of proposed side event, including objective, expected results, proposed programme and speakers* /
Description de la réunion parallèle proposée, y compris les objectifs, les résultats attendus, l'ordre du jour et les orateurs* :

“Promoting Vaccine Confidence: Enhancing Global Immunization Efforts to Protect the Health of All Generations”

**Background:** Immunization is one of the great public health achievements. As public health officials, our role advancing the health of people must include championing immunization against vaccine preventable diseases and the development of new vaccines against disease threats which are not currently vaccine preventable. Vaccinations save lives, protect infants, children, adolescents, and adults from preventable disease, and are vital to achieving and sustaining public health gains. One of the most cost effective public health interventions, vaccination currently prevents 2-3 million deaths per year and is our most reliable front-line defense against infectious disease.

Yet, despite profound global successes, including the historic eradication of small pox and widespread prevention of serious infections including diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, rubella and other communicable diseases, vaccination has become the victim of its own success. The progress we have made is threatened by complacency coupled with misunderstanding and misinformation about vaccines has undermined public trust, resulting in outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases among communities or individuals who have decided to delay a decision to vaccinate or decided not to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines and vaccination services. Building and maintaining demand for immunizations requires improving community engagement and other strategies must be part of national vaccination strategies.

Modern vaccines are highly effective and safe; mild reactions are short-lived, and serious side effects are exceptionally rare, and much less serious than the life-threatening consequences of actual disease Vaccine hesitancy – including the indecision, reluctance/delay or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines and services – threatens to reverse progress made over decades against vaccine preventable diseases, causing backsliding on the control of these diseases, and hinder uptake of new immunizations for diseases without such prevention measures currently. While the reasons for the rise in vaccine hesitancy are complex, lack of confidence in vaccines and the system that develops, approves, recommends and delivers them are key drivers. Given the benefits, understanding and addressing the root causes of vaccine hesitancy at the community level needs to be integrated into our strategy is essential if we are to achieve the full promise of vaccines and vaccination to prevent outbreaks, save lives, secure health, advance economic prosperity, and provide a global safety net against these diseases. Widespread acceptance of vaccination is fundamental to efforts toward universal access to health care.

**Event:** A panel will discuss evidence-based understanding of global vaccine acceptance and demand and the medical risk associated with decreasing immunization rates of vaccine preventable diseases, social, and cultural receptiveness to vaccines. Speakers will describe past and current efforts to understand and support vaccine acceptance and address the drivers of misinformation that are often identified as the basis of vaccine hesitancy among parents, community leaders, and policymakers/legislators. This side event will allow Member States to share experiences with vaccination programs, program successes, and the challenges that vaccine hesitancy has on program performance and community health. It will raise awareness of current challenges and present strategies to improve vaccination coverage. The event will raise awareness...
of the need for global, regional and national focus on vaccine confidence as part of effective vaccination programming through community engagement and other approaches toward continued progress against vaccine preventable diseases.

**Objectives**

1. Describe successes in global prevention and/or elimination of vaccine preventable diseases globally, including through The Decade of Action on Vaccines. Discuss recent trends in decreased vaccination rates in global settings and resulting increases in related outbreak/incidence data and implications for the vision and strategy being developed for the post-2020 agenda.
2. Explore how to understand better the behavioral drivers of vaccine confidence to increase vaccination coverage.
3. Galvanize support for redoubled prioritization of immunization by Member States and the need to develop and fully implement the Global Vaccine Action Plan and the developing post-2020 agenda and strengthen national action plans, including focusing on vaccine confidence.

Event panelists will include Health Ministers from co-sponsoring countries, WHO, senior leaders from other relevant ministries, and senior subject matter experts. We anticipate that the presentations and discussion at this side event will expand participants’ awareness of progress and challenges on vaccine coverage rates and the serious implications of backsliding.

**Proposed Program Overview (Total Time 90 Minutes)**

Facilitator: Senior HHS/Co-sponsor representative

- **Welcome and introduction** – 5 minutes (HHS leadership and senior European Commission representative)
- **Challenges for vaccination worldwide** – 15 minutes (scene-setting by thought leader followed by senior leaders from co-sponsoring countries, organizations)
- **State of the Globe: The role of misinformation in reducing vaccine confidence** – 15 minutes (senior leaders from co-sponsoring countries, WHO representative)
- **Refresh and Revamp: Revitalizing Information and Education on Vaccination** – 20 minutes (senior leaders from co-sponsoring countries, non-governmental thought leader)
- **Discussion** – 25 minutes (all)
- **Conclusion** – 5 minutes (Co-sponsoring country leadership)

---

**Event details / détails de la réunion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tues 5/21</th>
<th>Time/Heure lunch session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expected number of participants/Nombre de participants attendus:</td>
<td>100/150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exact title of the event/Titre exact de la réunion:** Promoting Vaccine Confidence: Enhancing Global Immunization Efforts to Protect the Health of All Generations

**Interpretation/Interprétation**

Interpretation may be provided in the official languages and the estimated costs are as follows: 2 languages: 2568 CHF; 3 languages: 5136 CHF; 6 languages: 11985 CHF.

L’interprétation peut être assurée dans les langues officielles aux coûts estimés suivants : 2 langues-2568 CHF; 3 langues : 5136 CHF; 6 langues : 11985 CHF.

| Are interpretation services requested? / L’interprétation est-elle requise ? | Yes/Oui ☒ | No/Non ☐ |
| (If yes, which languages)/(Si oui, en quelle langue) | | |
| English/Anglais ☒ | French/Français ☒ | Russian/Russe ☒ | Spanish/Espagnol ☒ | Chinese/Chinois ☒ | Arabic/Arabe ☒ |

**Other language/autre langue:**

**Invoice to be sent to/ Facture à envoyer à:**

- Name/Nom
- Postal address/ Adresse postale
- E-mail/Courriel
Room Layout/Aménagement des salles

Due to type of furniture and technical equipment in the room, the layout of the rooms cannot be changed. For information regarding the location and layout of rooms at the Palais des Nations, please see:
http://www.unog.ch/80256EE60057CB67/(httpPages)/BAE3AF717207A5AF80256EF80049C5527OpenDocument

Le type de mobilier et les installations techniques dans les salles ne permettent pas de modifier l’aménagement de celles-ci. Pour tout renseignement sur l’emplacement ou la disposition des salles au Palais des Nations voir le lien :
http://www.unog.ch/80256EE60057CB67/(httpPages)/BAE3AF717207A5AF80256EF80049C5527OpenDocument

*Badges/ Badges d’accès

WHA side events are for participants of the WHA and, as such, panelists and participants should be drawn from those participating in the Health Assembly.

Les réunions parallèles sont réservées aux participants de l’Assemblée; Les orateurs de ces réunions doivent donc être choisis parmi ceux-ci.

Please complete the form and send it to / Merci de remplir le formulaire et de l’envoyer à
hqgoverningbodies@who.int
by 29 March 2019