

# China Development Forum 2021

## *China on a New Journey of Modernisation*

20:35-21:35, 20 March 2021

Panel Session 6 - Venue 1

### Safeguarding Global Public Health Security

#### Moderator

Li Fang, Vice Editor-in-chief, People's Daily Overseas Edition

#### Speakers

George F. Gao, Director-General, China CDC

Paul Hudson, CEO, Sanofi

Sten H. Vermund, Dean, Yale School of Public Health

Michael F. Roman, Chairman & CEO, 3M Company

Takeshi Kasai, Regional Director for the Western Pacific, World Health Organization

Liu Yuanli, Consultant of the State Council and Dean, School of Public Health at the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College

#### Key points

- Global cooperation is at the core of safeguarding global public health security. It is critical not only in pandemic containment, but also in the prevention of future pandemics.
- Data sharing helps enable the operation of global public health security systems and institutions, while enhancing the prevention and treatment of global diseases.
- Vaccine sharing facilitates the establishment of a protective network against pandemics and a stronger global pandemic prevention mechanism.

#### Synopsis

Global public health security has always been one of the key topics in multilateral cooperation, but particularly so since the outbreak of COVID-19, which has highlighted the importance of global public health security. This panel explored how to cope with potential pandemics in future against the backdrop of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic today.

COVID-19 is continuing to spread around the world, with 120 million confirmed cases and a death toll of more than a million people. Although the number of infections in

some regions and countries is still on the rise, newly developed vaccines will, to some extent, help turn the tide of the pandemic.

The panellists agreed that cooperation is at the core of safeguarding global public health security, requiring countries to work together to prevent a second wave of the pandemic. George F. Gao said that the existing global public health system has shifted its traditional hierarchical structure to a network structure, making cooperation among various organizations more important as they become closely interlinked.

As for specific areas of cooperation and ways to enhance cooperation, the panellists provided two suggestions:

- Takeshi Kasai, Sten H. Vermund, and Liu Yuanli believe it is necessary to establish a global institution and mechanism to drive multilateral cooperation and global experimentation, thereby preventing future pandemics.
- Paul Hudson and Michael F. Roman proposed to strengthen public-private partnership, with increased investment in fostering high-quality manufacturing capabilities. Steps should be taken to ensure long-term stable supplies of medical and protective facilities while shortening the supply chain, to cope with possible future pandemics.

Apart from cooperation, the panellists also highlighted the importance of data sharing and vaccine sharing:

- Data sharing among countries can help develop an international monitoring mechanism to ensure all ethnic groups have access to adequate public health services.
- Vaccine sharing facilitates the establishment of a protective network, but requires joint efforts from governments and global health organizations to educate the public about the importance of vaccines and push equal vaccine distribution.

Global collaboration, data sharing and vaccine sharing are essential to safeguarding global public health security. The ultimate goal is to establish a global cooperative organization and build a wall of pandemic prevention.

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Acknowledgement: **Deloitte.**  
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