

Speakers

COVID-19 and Systemic Risk

25 November 2021, 12:15h to 13:45h CET



MODERATOR

Sandra Gathmann is a journalist with Al Jazeera English based in Doha, Qatar. She currently presents the award-winning show 'Start Here' - a weekly series found on YouTube and social media, which breaks down big news stories for a global audience. Before Al Jazeera English, Sandra was a TV correspondent based in Istanbul and Brussels reporting for international channels and making documentaries from all over the world.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

António Lacerda Sales is the Secretary of State for Health of Portugal. He was a member of the Portuguese Parliament between 2015 and 2018, during which time he coordinated the Health Committee and served as a member of the European Affairs Committee and as a substitute member of the National Defense Committee and of the Environment, Decentralization and Local Government Committee. He has a degree in Medicine from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Coimbra and is the author of several publications in the field of sports medicine, and healthy and active aging. He was orthopaedist at the Hospital de Santo André of the Leiria Hospital Centre, EPE until 1995, maintaining his activity at the Clínica de S. Francisco in Leiria and in a personal office.



PANELISTS

Joke Schauvliege has been the vice-president of the Flemish Parliament since 2004. She was a member of the Belgian Federal Parliament between 1999 and 2003 and the Minister of Environment, Nature and Culture in the Flemish Government from 2009 to 2014. She was Minister for Town and Country Planning, Environment and Nature from 2014 until 2019. She holds a Master's degree in law. She is a member of the local council of her hometown Evergem since 1994.



Bruno Pozzi is the Regional Director for the UN Environment Programme in Europe. A Belgian diplomat, he has over 20 years of experience in high-level diplomacy and politics across three different continents and in various political and economic roles. He currently leads dialogues with the EU, UN institutions in Geneva and 54 countries in the European region. He co-chairs the first regional Issue-Based Coalition on environment and climate change and has reinforced dialogues with UN Country Teams in the region.



Philip Ward is a Professor of Global Water Risk Dynamics and Head of the Water and Climate Risks department of the Institute for Environmental Science, and Director of the MSc in Hydrology, at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He coordinates the EU Horizon 2020 funded project MYRIAD-EU, aimed at improving multi-hazard and systemic risk-informed management and decision-making in the EU. He was a member of the inaugural Expert Group of UNDRR's Global Risk Assessment Framework. In 2019, he was awarded the EGU Plinius Medal for his contribution to natural hazards science.



Professor Salman Zarka is the Director of the Ziv Medical Center, dealing with its medical services' expansion and growth to minimize the inequalities in health between the northern periphery and the center of Israel. Under his visionary guidance, Ziv Medical Center launched and led the humanitarian aid initiative by the State of Israel to Syrian casualties during the civil war in Syria. For this achievement, he was honored with lighting a torch at the State of Israel's National 71st Independence Day ceremony and was named as one of the ten most influential health leaders of Israel in the past decade. Prof. Zarka is now playing a prominent leadership role in Israel's battle against Covid-19 as the national Covid-19 officer. He holds master's degrees in Epidemiology and Public Health, and in Political Science.



Dr. Dorit Nitzan is the WHO Regional Emergencies Director. She joined WHO in 2005 and held different senior positions, and the teams led by her received UN and WHO's awards. She is a paediatrician, nutritionist and an epidemiologist. She completed her medical school in Tel Aviv University, nutrition at the Hebrew University and specialty and MPH at Columbia University, NYC, USA.

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