

Hatice Speech – Think Now and Think Different:

Distinguished Excellencies, Dr. Tedros,
Esteemed guests, and friends of H20 Summit!

A warm welcome to you all on this bright Geneva morning!

While our agenda is jam-packed, promising little daylight over the next two days, rest assured, we'll compensate for any vitamin D loss with some exciting and thought-provoking discussions.

Before I hand over the floor to our incredible line-up of speakers, allow me to share a few reflections.

This year's H20 Summit is incredibly special for two reasons –

- 1) It marks our **9th anniversary**. It has been nine years since our foundation and since Germany, the country I proudly call home, dared to place global health on the agenda of the G20 Presidency that has persisted and grown until today.
- 2) **This year marks the conclusion of the first cycle of G20 meetings**, where initially Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors came together to discuss global economic and financial stability.

In every ending there is a new beginning – This is why this year's H20 provides a unique opportunity to reflect on past and current achievements and lessons learnt

BUT we also see this as an opportunity to explore strategies to secure a prominent role for health and development in the next cycle starting in 2026.

We applaud South Africa for continuing to place global health prominently on the agenda of the current G20 – **BUT** we also know that we can no longer take this for granted.

What we can take for granted though is that despite **cyclical ups and downs** in multilateral organisations and fora, we must remember health is recession resistant, as the demand for medical services and products remains steady, reducing investment risks compared to cyclical industries.

BUT Also health is recession resistant because it can produce success stories such as the recent pandemic agreement or the many initiatives launched and carried through the G20 in the last few years.

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By just looking at the achievements of The G20&G7HDP Partners that spearhead the H20 Summit, we have successfully influenced all **9 G7 and G20 Presidency agendas** with our

thought provoking ideas and proposals, we have forged **15 cross-sectorial partnerships** with the official G20 engagement groups,

AND MAINLY we created our **own H20 engagement** group with your support – And with the unwavering support of Dr Tedros and his team.

Our profound belief has been that we **must break health siloes**, and that we must transform the perception that health is NOT a mere cost **center BUT RATHER a vital and measurable investment case.**

This has been our unwavering **compass** guiding all of our thematic discussions.

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Over the next two days, our panels will reflect and support the discussions of the G20 and G7 Presidencies. **Unlike other summits, we will draft a life call to action together** with your support and thought-provoking ideas which we will present at the end of this summit and submit to G20 Health, Finance Minister and Leaders ahead of their upcoming meetings.

As Alan mentioned we will be **launching two landmark reports 1) focusing on the role of legislators and how they can hold their governments to account on the promises made on international platforms based on the** example of non-communicable diseases.

2) The **Health Taxonomy** report that provides a first framework for a health investment tool aimed at fostering a shared understanding and common **language between governments, companies, and investors, to help drive financing toward future health-positive** initiatives

As G7 leaders wrapped up their summit in Canada, health was clearly absent from the agenda.

Amid escalating geopolitical tensions, the fiscal space for health shrinking in over 69 countries,

This is why, It's time to recognise that health financing is **no longer solely a public sector concern; it is a fundamental pillar of economic productivity, stability, and resilience.**

We all know, that Increasing health funding alone will not improve health outcomes if the financing system is poorly designed. Conversely, a well-developed health financing framework won't succeed without sufficient funding.

Both are essential and must work together.

Investing smartly into Health is the Art of securing tomorrow's care with today's opportunities. – Let Us seize these opportunities.

Now, please join me in welcoming Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO to deliver his keynote remarks. Dr. Tedros, the stage is yours.