



**PMAC** | PRINCE MAHIDOL  
AWARD CONFERENCE

## **PLENARY SESSION 3**

**UHC AND THE CHANGING GLOBAL LANDSCAPE**

## | BACKGROUND

The world needs to put the progress towards UHC on track to be able to achieve it by 2030. To this end, the global community must rise to the coming challenges that can affect UHC (including service needs, availability and use issues, quality of services, and financial protection). It is essential that we forecast important changes in global landscape over the next decade, and that we identify opportunities with the potential to accelerate progress towards UHC. Challenges and opportunities are context-dependent. For example, economy(industry), society(technology), politics and environment are all key aspects that can affect this progress.

## | OBJECTIVES

- The plenary considers the global landscape affecting the achievement of UHC from a range of perspectives, which include: environmental, economic and industrial, social and technological, and political, and educational. It will set the stage for deep-dive discussion in the following parallel sessions on key challenges and potential key drivers. To identify them, it also explores the linkage of the landscape to UHC
- The plenary mainly focuses on identifying 'what' are the challenges and opportunities, and the parallel sessions discusses 'how' to address challenges and seize opportunities.



Moderator

## Robert Yates

*Head of Centre For Universal Health*

Chatham House  
United Kingdom

Robert Yates is a political health economist specializing in universal health coverage (UHC) and progressive health financing. He is Head of the Centre For Universal Health at Chatham House. He is also an Honorary Associate Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a long-term consultant to The Elders on their UHC programme.

His principal area of expertise is in the political economy of UHC, with a focus on advising political leaders and governments on how to plan, finance and implement national UHC reforms. He has previously worked as a Senior Health Economist with the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Health Organisation, advising numerous governments in Asia, Africa and Europe on health financing policy and health systems reforms.

He holds a BA degree in Natural Sciences and Economics from the University of Cambridge and a MBA, from the University of Leeds.



Keynote Speaker

## Aquina Thulare

*NHI Special Adviser to Minister*

National Department of Health  
South Africa



Keynote Speaker

## Henna Dhawan

*Sr. Officer on Special Duty & Deputy General Manager*

National Health Authority  
India



Panelist

## Carlos Correa

*Executive Director*

South Centre  
Switzerland

Prof. Carlos María Correa of Argentina is the Executive Director of the South Centre. He began his term as South Centre Executive Director on 1 July 2018. Prior to this, he was the Special Advisor on Trade and Intellectual Property of the South Centre. Prof. Correa is a renowned international authority on intellectual property and technology issues.

Prof. Correa has worked with the Argentine government and has been the Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies on Industrial Property and Economics (CEIDIE) at the Law Faculty of the University of Buenos Aires. He was a member of the UK Commission on Intellectual Property, of the Commission on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Public Health established by the World Health Assembly and of the FAO Panel of Eminent Experts on Ethics in Food and Agriculture.

He has been a visiting professor in post-graduate courses of several universities and consultant to various regional and international organizations. He has advised several governments on intellectual property, innovation policy and public health. He is the author of several books and numerous articles.

Prof. Correa is both a lawyer and economist from the University of Buenos Aires and holds a PhD in Law from the University of Buenos Aires.



Panelist

## Montira Pongsiri

*Consultant on global environmental change and health cooperation projects*

United States of America

Montira Pongsiri, PhD, MPH

Dr. Pongsiri was the first Science Advisor at the U.S. Mission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) where she led the Mission's efforts to apply science and technology to support ASEAN's sustainability goals and to strengthen the capacity of science-based policy-making through programs such as the ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Fellows Program and the ASEAN-U.S. sustainable cities partnership.

She was an Environmental Health Scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development. At the EPA, Dr. Pongsiri developed and led a research initiative on biodiversity and human health which studied the links between anthropogenic stressors, changes in biodiversity, and infectious disease transmission. She was the agency's lead on technical partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution and with Rockefeller's 100 Resilient Cities Global Challenge. As a member of The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, Dr. Pongsiri brought expertise on environmental change-human disease linkages.

Since departing Cornell University and University of Oxford, Dr. Pongsiri has been a consultant on global environmental change and health cooperation projects, including with ASEAN, which demonstrate the use of integrated environment and health data and tools to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.



Panelist

## Parry Aftab

*Founder, Exec Director*

The Cybersafety Group  
United States of America

Parry Aftab is considered one of the founders of cyberlaw. Dr. Aftab is a digital policy advisor to both networks and nations on the human aspects of digital innovation. She is considered an “digital innovation realist.” Throughout her long career, Parry Aftab has walked a careful line between helping innovation thrive while addressing challenges and risks, design biases and diverse societal needs of humanity.

Most of her time is now donated to helping protect and empower digital consumers. In 1995 she formed the world’s oldest cybersafety and help group, operating as The Cybersafety Group. Through her charitable programs, she trains children 7-16 as digital policy experts, where they provide their unique perspectives to industry, government and NGOs. her cybersafety and digital life skills programs have reached millions of young people throughout the world.

Parry Aftab’s India foundation, Cybersafety India, was the first in India dedicated to cybersafety for children and vulnerable populations, ethical digital design and digital inclusion.

Dr. Aftab was appointed by UNESCO to oversee its efforts to prevent and address digital and digitally-facilitated crimes against children for the US. Parry Aftab is also the Youth Digital Privacy and Cybersafety Advisor for the IEEE. Her Cyberwellness professional development and certification programs are offered to healthcare providers and medical professionals. It is designed to address digital risks to patients impacting their health as well as cyberstalking and reputational attacks against providers and medical professionals.



