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## WS 06 - The Cost of Inaction – The Importance of Pandemic Prevention at the Source

The Need to Bolster Pandemic Prevention at the Source to Reduce Costs and Provide Co-Benefits to Climate and Biodiversity

Oct. 16, 2022, CEST: 02:00 PM - 03:30 PM / UTC: 12:00 PM - 01:30 PM

Digital Session: <https://youtu.be/s-BYBVONmTQ> (<https://youtu.be/s-BYBVONmTQ>)

### Workshop (WS 06) - Asia

Scientists calculate the cost of preventing further pandemics – via forest protection and improved wildlife trade regulation – over the next decade would amount to just 2% of the estimated financial damage caused by COVID-19. Such prevention strategies would also come with considerable co-benefits for climate and biodiversity. Research shows the proportion of pathogens crossing from one stage to the next, from pre-emergence to pandemic stage decreases as the costs for stopping those increases. In this inverse correlation: the earlier we prevent, the more cost-efficient it is.

Yet attention is currently focused on later-stage prevention, preparedness and response. According to WHO's Cristina Romanelli, only 3% of current efforts to stop future pandemics goes to primary prevention (pre-spillover), while the remaining 97% is invested in secondary prevention and preparedness measures.

In the wake of immediate reactions to COVID-19 – most of which were taken under immense pressure to respond to and manage an ongoing crisis – many key actors, are now contemplating how to avoid and handle possible future pandemics more intelligently, efficiently and effectively. Considering this challenge, we ask: How can lessons learned from COVID-19 and primary prevention take a more prominent role in global responses to reduce the risk of future pandemics? What would such a policy path look like? And how might it incorporate regulations in line with WHO's Manifesto ("Prescriptions for a healthy and green recovery from COVID-19") that recognize the incredible opportunity for investments contributing to solving the triple, intersecting crises of health, climate and biodiversity?

#### **Chairs:**

[Dr. Eckart von Hirschhausen](#)

Physician, Science Journalist, Founder of Healthy Planet - Healthy People Foundation and World Health Summit Ambassador | Germany

#### **Speakers:**

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