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**PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE: STOPPING THE NEXT
OUTBREAK BEFORE IT BECOMES A PANDEMIC**

| BACKGROUND

Despite years of planning and investment since the 2005 International Health Regulations were published by WHO, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed how remarkably unprepared the world was to control the spread and recover from the effects of SARS-CoV-2. Among several analyses of what went wrong with the response, in May 2021, The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness & Response issued a comprehensive main report of its findings and recommendations for action to curb the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure that any future infectious disease outbreak does not become another catastrophic pandemic.

This PMAC-2022 parallel session will address some elements central to stopping the next outbreak before it becomes a pandemic. Panelists will be asked to identify enabling factors and likely barriers; and to address specific action steps to achieve the goal of preventing another pandemic.

Key themes are:

1. Investing in preparedness and coordination now to prevent or mitigate the next crisis
2. The future of broadly-acting antiviral agents and universal vaccines for coronaviruses, influenza and other high-consequence infectious agents
3. Building global manufacturing capacity for rapid antiviral and vaccine production, including mRNA-based vaccines, towards full global access
4. Establishing a pre-negotiated global platform for access to vaccines, tools and supplies

| OBJECTIVES

To identify enabling factors and likely barriers; and to illuminate specific action steps to achieve the goal of preventing another pandemic.



Panelist

Raji Tajudeen

Head of Public Health Institutes and Research at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)

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Tajudeen Raji MD, MPH, FWACP, Chatham House Fellow

Tajudeen is a Medical Doctor with postgraduate qualifications in Pediatrics and Public Health.

He is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians and African Public Health Leaders Fellow of the Chatham House Royal Institute of International Affairs, UK. He has years of senior level experience in Child Health, Health System Management, Health System Strengthening, Health Diplomacy, Maternal and Child Health, and Health in Humanitarian Emergencies. He has lots of experience working in different settings in the developing world.

He is currently the Head of Public Health Institutes and Research at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He coordinates the establishment and strengthening of National Public Health Institutes across the 55 African Union Member States. He coordinates the Africa CDC Health Workforce Development portfolio.

He oversees the public health research agenda of the Africa CDC. Tajudeen heads the healthcare preparedness and countermeasures section of the Africa CDC COVID-19 response. He co-chairs the case management technical working group of the Africa Taskforce on COVID-19. He leads the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Programme (partnership to accelerate COVID-19 vaccination in Africa) of the African Union.