



**PMAC** | PRINCE MAHIDOL  
AWARD CONFERENCE **2022**

**S6**

**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

## John Nkengasong

*Director*

Africa CDC  
Ethiopia

Dr John Nkengasong currently serves as Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, a specialized technical institution of the African Union.

In early 2020, he was appointed as one of the WHO Director-General's Special Envoys on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response. In addition, Dr Nkengasong was most recently awarded the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's 2020 Global Goalkeeper Award for his contributions to the continental response in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa.

Prior to his current position, he served as Acting Deputy Principal Director of the Center for Global Health and Chief of the International Laboratory Branch, Division of Global HIV and TB for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr Nkengasong holds a master's degree in tropical biomedical science from the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, and a doctorate in medical sciences (virology), from the University of Brussels, Belgium.

Dr Nkengasong has received numerous awards for his work including Sheppard Award, the William Watson Medal of Excellence, the highest recognition awarded by the US CDC. He is also recipient of the Knight of Honour Medal by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, was knighted in 2017 as the Officer of Loin by the President of Senegal, H.E. Macky Sall, and Knighted in November 2018 by the government of Cameroon for his significant contributions to public health. He is an adjunct professor at the Emory School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

He serves on several international advisory boards including the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Initiative (CEPIT) and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), among others. He has authored over 250 peer-review articles in international journals and published several book chapters.