

PARALLEL SESSION 3.4

**NO PROGRESS WITHOUT ACTION: A NEW ERA OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO END
EMPTY PROMISES FOR NCD PREVENTION AND CONTROL**



| BACKGROUND

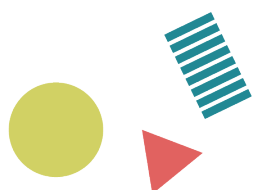
A plethora of global NCD commitments and targets have been made, but ten years since the first UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs it is evident countries are struggling to move to implementation, and the official process to track and review global progress is overwhelming and confusing. 25 outcome indicators, 10 progress indicators, and 2 SDG indicators comprise the global accountability framework for NCDs. Yet many low- and income countries (LMICs) still have inadequate national information systems, the reporting globally on NCDs is not providing the in-depth granular trends that is required to catalyse action, and all reporting on NCD targets and commitments are voluntary (unlike in the case of framework conventions such as the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control or the Paris Agreement which is legally binding).

As has been demonstrated by the HIV/AIDS and women and children's health communities, accountability can be a crucial force for political and programmatic change. Defined as a cyclical process of monitoring, review and action, accountability enables the tracking of commitments, resources, and results and provides information on what works and why, what needs improving, and what requires increased attention. Accountability ensures that decision-makers have the information required to meet the health needs and realise the rights of all people at risk of or living with NCDs, and to place them at the heart of related efforts.

This session will seek to explore if the global accountability framework and architecture for NCDs is fit for purpose. Speakers will explore whether there is ownership and adherence by countries to the international system of declarations, commitments and targets, and if the systems are in place at the country level to ensure accountability; if there is value in a greater focus on independent accountability mechanisms, as has been central pillar of accountability for women and children's health; what are the lessons learnt from other parts of global health governance and other parts of sustainable development (for example the FCTC and other conventions); and what is the role of non-state actors in driving accountability for NCDs (for example, shadow reporting and witnessing).

| OBJECTIVES

- Review and evaluate the current accountability framework and architecture for NCDs, and explore ways of strengthening it
- Identify lessons learnt from other global health governance and mechanisms, including Framework Conventions, and their implications for NCDs
- Explore the value of independent accountability mechanisms, and the role of non-state actors in accountability.





Panelist

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Co-chair

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Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam is a distinguished international civil servant, development professional, public policy expert, and human rights activist. He is a former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. He has extensive experience in international diplomacy, development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. Mr. Gautam serves on the Boards of several international and national organizations, charitable foundations and public private partnerships. Currently, he is Co-Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health; Chair of the Board of anti-poverty advocacy organization RESULTS, Inc (USA); and a Member of the Fund Steering Committee of Global Partnership on Violence against Children. In Nepal, Mr. Gautam serves as Member of the Nepal Public Health Foundation and the Arogya Health Foundation, and several other organizations. In 2010-11 he served as Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal on International Affairs and the Peace Process. In an illustrious UN career spanning over three decades, Mr. Gautam served in senior leadership and managerial positions at UNICEF in several countries and continents. He was the key senior UNICEF officer responsible for drafting the Declaration and Plan of Action of the 1990 World Summit for Children, the largest gathering of world leaders in history until that time. In 2002 he led the organization of another major United Nations Summit - the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children - attended by 70 world leaders and thousands of child rights activists and civil society leaders, including celebrities and Nobel Prize Laureates. On behalf of UNICEF, Mr. Gautam actively contributed to crafting of the Millennium Development Goals. He took special interest in the health-related MDGs, and participated actively in the High-level Forum on Health MDGs, the International Health Partnership and the Global Campaign for Health MDGs. He was actively involved in the UNICEF-led child survival and development campaigns; universal child immunization; polio eradication, and served UNICEF representative in the Board of the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI) during 2002-2007. Mr. Gautam served as Chair or member of the Boards of several international development organizations and public-private partnerships, including the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the Micronutrient Initiative (MI), the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), and South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (World Bank). Mr. Gautam is the winner of several awards, including the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award conferred by the US Peace Corps in 2018; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Social Justice Award for Lifetime Achievement given by Dartmouth College, USA in 2009; and the Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award conferred by UNICEF-USA in 2008. A citizen of Nepal, Mr. Gautam received his higher education in international relations and development economics at Dartmouth College and Princeton University in the United States of America.