



**Karolinska
Institutet**



**HOUSE OF GOVERNANCE
AND PUBLIC POLICY**

Politics and Diplomacy for Health **2024**

PROGRAMME



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BACKGROUND

Globally, there is a growing interest in **international politics, leadership, and diplomacy for health**. This trend underscores a critical need and growing demand for the development of practical skills in navigating political landscapes and applying political science in real-world health scenarios, extending beyond theoretical knowledge.

Health is not just a technical or medical issue, but a critical element of foreign policy, security, climate, international development cooperation and business. It is, therefore, not surprising that health has risen on the agendas of regional organizations such as the African Union, European Union and ASEAN, as well as economic blocs such as G7 and G20. Several countries have even established dedicated ambassadorships (or equivalent) for global health.

Stakeholders worldwide have demonstrated an interest in **strengthening competencies and capacity around global health, diplomacy and politics**. This interest recognizes that political processes are not only influenced by evidence and technical expertise; power relationships, economic factors, opinions and personal experiences are equally important dimensions. Thus, a better understanding of the political economy of health can make efforts more successful and efficient as well as help to avoid pitfalls.

Diplomacy – defined as “the art, the science, and the means by which nations, groups, or individuals conduct their affairs, in ways to safeguard their interests and promote their political, economic, cultural or scientific relations, while maintaining peaceful relationships” – is one tool and means to navigate successfully in the political landscape. We also see that diplomacy is intertwined with international relations, where business and civil society play greater roles.

There may, at times, be tensions between diplomacy that safeguards national interests and global health addressing a global common interest. However, successful global health diplomacy can help save lives, protect and promote national health and boost the prosperity of communities, societies and national economies. This has been demonstrated time and time again, e.g. in fighting Ebola and COVID-19, minimizing the harmful effects of tobacco use, advancing Universal Health Coverage and supporting health systems across the world.

However, a gap exists in **integrating governance, diplomacy, development, and business insights with political science and public health disciplines**. Current learning opportunities are limited, with no established networks for either practitioners or institutions. Addressing this need, the Stockholm School of Economics and Karolinska Institutet have launched an initiative which comprises a mapping of current demand and available training opportunities, a high-level conference (which took place 20-22 November 2023) featuring practitioners and key institutions, and this pilot fellows' program. The broader project also aims to establish a network of practitioners as well as a network of institutions with shared interests.

OBJECTIVES

The program aims to expand the existing cadre of mid-career health professionals (from the public and private sectors, and civil society) equipped with the competencies to effectively navigate and engage in regional and global political settings which are crucial for improving health.

Specific objectives for participants include:

1. **acquiring skills for success in international and regional political processes** and contexts related to health, through practical advice, peer insights, and guidance from senior experts;
2. gaining an **understanding of political economy and tools for political analysis**, along with insights into health trends and societal transitions that impact population health;
3. building a global **professional network** of colleagues and world-class leaders.





THEMES AND COMPETENCES

The program will focus on unpacking the processes and contexts for successful regional and global political decision-making for health. Through practical examples, case studies, and interactive discussions between fellows and senior practitioners, the program will address the following themes and competencies:

1. **Transformative leadership** and how to identify and maximize/seize **windows of opportunity**
2. Fostering **trust**, building **networks**, and nurturing **relationships**
3. Effective **communication** strategies – why do style, language, and timing matter?
4. Dynamics of **formal and informal decision-making** – where and by whom are real decisions taken?
5. Lessons from **entrepreneurship** and the private sector
6. **Managing uncertainty**, embracing failure, being courageous, and understanding oneself and one's adversaries
7. **Passion** and clear personal **values** for successful leadership

APPROACH/METHODOLOGIES

The program will comprise five online workshops, training, mentorship, and a 4-day master class in Sigtuna, Sweden.

A) A practitioner-to-practitioner approach

The program will be built on the sharing of real present or past experiences from navigating regional or global political contexts for health. There will be opportunities to learn from and be inspired by senior leaders and colleagues (peer-to-peer learning). Learning from both success and failures.

Featuring case studies from the past, present and future, the program will offer practical insights and strategies, focusing on seven themes and “soft” skills and experiences rather than providing extensive training in leadership or communication.

The ultimate goal is for participants to continue developing their skills and be part of a professional network of fellows working in diplomacy and politics for health.

B) Leadership Development Groups

At the heart of the fellows' program, the "Leadership Development Groups" (LDGs) stand as a cornerstone for enabling an environment of growth, collaboration, and innovation.

Comprising clusters of 5-6 fellows each, these groups are designed to create a space where deep, meaningful connections can be developed. The LDGs are a fundamental part of the strategy to cultivate a culture of mutual support and dynamic exchange of ideas among fellows and build a long-term robust, interdisciplinary community of practice in global health diplomacy.

The interaction within these LDGs is structured to unlock a wealth of peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Fellows are encouraged to share their professional experiences and insights, thus enriching the knowledge of the group. This approach will include teamwork on various tasks, including the in-depth analysis and discussion of case studies that mirror real-world challenges in global health diplomacy. Additionally, the groups will prepare for roleplaying exercises, to contribute to the understanding and application of diplomatic strategies in a controlled, yet realistic environment.

This group setting is crafted to not only facilitate but also accelerate personal and professional development. By drawing on each other's experiences and areas of expertise, fellows can achieve a level of insight and practical knowledge greater than the sum of its parts. This collaborative approach ensures that each member of the LDG contributes to and benefits from the collective learning process, thereby maximising the educational impact and outcomes of the program.

C) Case studies

Case-based learning (CBL) and experiential learning will serve as the main pedagogical approaches for the program.

- During the online workshops, participants will be asked to present their submitted case studies in which they are currently or have been recently involved (e.g. G7/G20, AU/EU, UN, WHO, INB, AMR, etc...).
- Case studies from the past (e.g. HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, Climate & Health) will be presented by and discussed with key leaders and practitioners involved at the time.
- Finally, participants will be given a future scenario, allocated different roles, and asked to prepare for a simulation during the Master class.

D) Learning material – pre-reading

Participants will be guided by relevant reading material (books and short articles) as well as existing short online video sessions and podcasts.

E) Mentoring

The program will provide opportunities for fellows to connect with more senior, experienced leaders, with a more structured mentorship program to be explored.

F) Professional network and institutional collaboration

Collaborations are being explored with leading academic institutions around the world. This growing network of institutional partners will make it possible to organize follow-up seminars and establish a network of alumni fellows.



COSTS

The fee and cost for participation in the program is USD 12,000, which includes all costs for the Master Class (accommodation, meals, etc) except travel.

Participants working in the public sector and in civil society, and those from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will receive a discounted rate of USD 1,200 USD. LMIC participants will also be eligible to apply for a travel bursary of up to USD 1,500 if needed.

The invoice will sent separately with its own instructions.



CERTIFICATE

The program will have the status of an Executive Program and a certificate will be issued jointly by the Stockholm School of Economics and the Karolinska Institutet. To qualify, participants must have participated in at least 4 of the online workshops and the Master Class in its entirety.



PARTICIPANTS

The program will enrol 28 **mid-career professionals** from all regions of the world, and have a geographically representative and gender-balanced mix of participants from the public and private sectors and civil society.

The program will target participants with 5-15 years of working experience at regional/global level, in the private sector, civil society, and/or government; specific experience from having managed political processes at the regional or global level; proven interest and commitment to global/regional health improvements; knowledge about the international system of relevance to health; motivation for how this program will contribute to continued career and required time commitment.



PROGRAM

The program will consist of five online sessions and an in-person, 4-day Master Class in Sigtuna, Sweden. There will be tasks, pre-reading material provided and expectations for participants to interact and work together in their Leadership Development Groups in between sessions.

Prior to the Master Class, individual casework preparations should take place. Individual check-ins between fellows and the program directors will occur throughout the program. The program will be coordinated and managed by the House of Governance and Public Policy at the Stockholm School of Economics, in collaboration with the Department of Global Health at the Karolinska Institute.

All times mentioned in the program are Central European Time (CET).

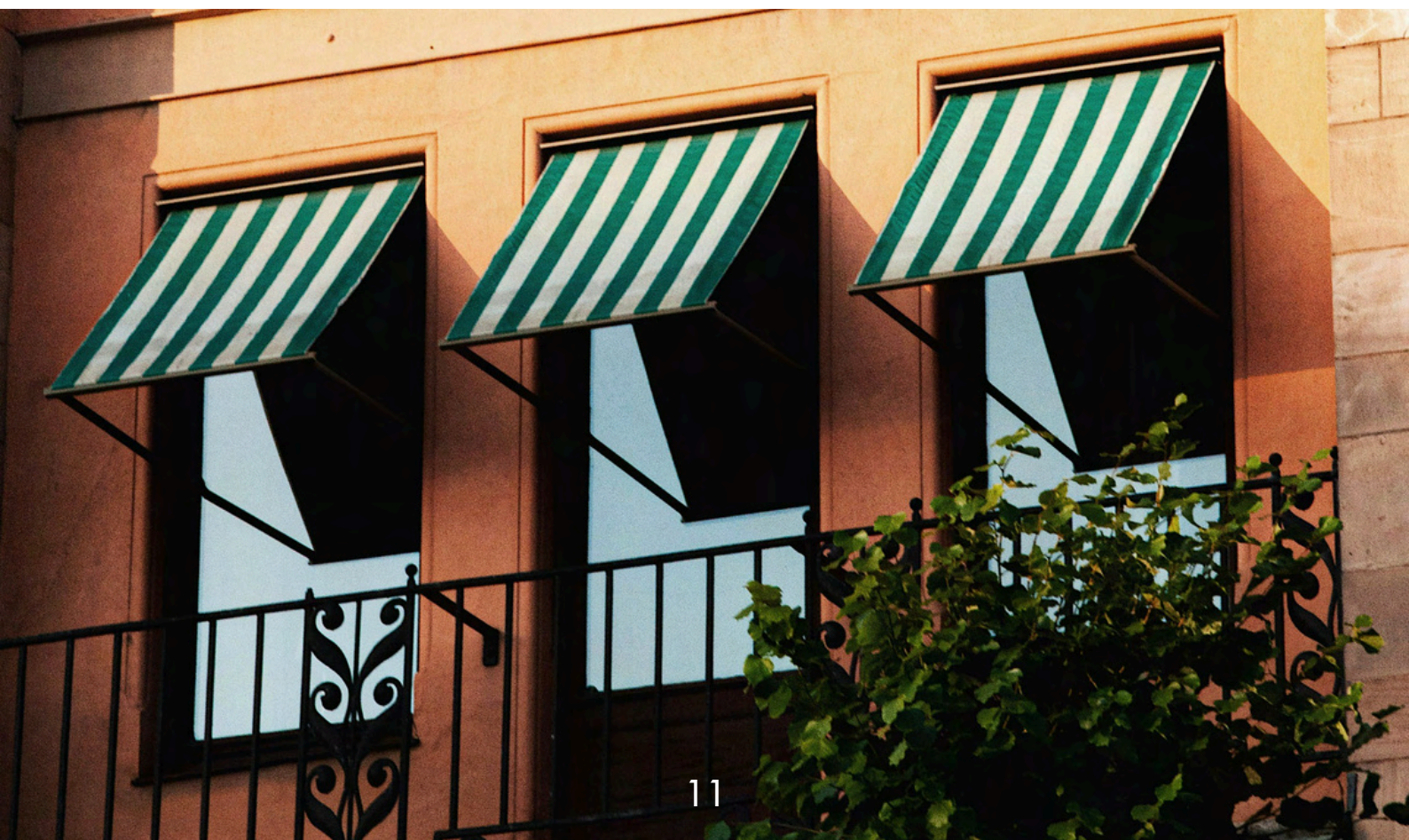
ONLINE SESSIONS		
22 March	Introductory (Icebreaker) Session	
12.00-12.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Welcome	Tobias Alfvén & Anders Nordström
12.05-12.35	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Fellow introductions	All fellows
12.35-13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Meet and greet◦ Questions on Kahoot	All fellows
13.05-13.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Program introduction◦ Questions and closing	Anders Nordström & Tobias Alfvén



4 April	Workshop A	
12.00-12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Setting the scene ◦ Introduction of program objectives, content and logistics ◦ Introduction to Leadership Development Groups 	Gunilla Carlsson & Anders Nordström
12.30-13.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Group introductions and discussions about expectations for the program 	Group discussions
13.10-13.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Joint discussion 	Gunilla Carlsson & Anders Nordström
13.30-14.30	The evolving dynamics of regional & global health politics	Amb. John Nkengasong

22 April	Workshop B	
12.00-12.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Re-cap of last workshop ◦ Introduction to analysis of stakeholders and political landscape 	Gunilla Carlsson & Anders Nordström
12.20-13.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Presentation of & reflection on present work and case studies 	Group discussions
13.10-13.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Joint discussion 	Gunilla Carlsson & Anders Nordström
13.30-14.30	Research, evidence and politics for global health	Dr John-Arne Røttingen

14 May	Workshop C	
12.00-13.00	The reality of international health policies and how to navigate towards a successful outcome	Prof. Dame Sally Davies
13.00-13.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Re-cap of last workshop ◦ Follow up on individual check-ins 	Gunilla Carlsson & Anders Nordström
13.20-14.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Check-in on cases ◦ Discussion of Masterclass program, the seven key themes and "soft" skills/competencies ◦ Feedback/Questions 	Group discussions
14.00-14.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Joint discussion 	Gunilla Carlsson & Anders Nordström



Master class, 11-15 June 2024

	Tues, 11th June	Wed, 12th June	Thurs, 13th June	Fri, 14th June	Sat, 15th June
8.30	Arrivals	Recap of day 1	Recap of day 2	Recap of day 3	Breakfast and departure
9.00		Political economy – the political reality and logic - Clare Wenham	How to remain neutral and impartial in highly polarized environments - Esperanza Marinez	The diplomatic toolbox – a regional perspective - Christian Danielsson	
10.00		Coffee			
10.30		HIV/AIDS in the 90s and now - Joy Phumaphi & Anders Nordström	The Ebola outbreak and the Covid-19 pandemic - Joanne Liu & Michel Kazatchkine	How to navigate global health with a federal government - Preeti Sudan & Jimmy Kolker	
11.30		Group walk & talk			
12.30		Lunch			
13.30	Introductions Participants, program, objectives, expectations and norms	Deep dives <i>Networks and building trust</i>	Deep dives <i>Formal and informal decision making</i>	Deep dives <i>Communication, culture and media</i>	
14.30	The geo-politics of regional and global health - Yodi Alakija	Trends, future scenarios & transitions - Bogi Eliassen	Deep dives <i>Taking calculated risks – being prepared to fail</i>	What does it mean for me? <i>In pairs</i>	
15.30	Coffee				
16.00	Introduction to leadership, game theory, & negotiation	Deep dives <i>Private sector and entrepreneurship</i>	Deep dives <i>Identifying windows of opportunity</i>	Creating a community of practice	
17.00		Reflections	Reflections	Evaluation	
18.00	Dinner				
19.30	Garden talk I Leif Johansson	Visit to Sigtuna	Garden talk II Preeti Sudan	Garden talk III Ilona Kickbusch	

3 July	Workshop D	
12.00-12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Re-cap of Master Class ◦ Check-in – applying the skills? 	Gunilla Carlsson & Anders Nordström
12.30-13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Presentations on progress on own case studies 	Group discussions
13.00-13.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Joint discussion 	Gunilla Carlsson & Anders Nordström
13.30-14.30	<p>The power of people and how people’s voices influence political decisions or not</p>	Dr Githinji Gitahi

23 July	Workshop E	
12.00-12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Re-cap of last workshop ◦ A network for practitioners 	Gunilla Carlsson & Anders Nordström
12.30-13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Joint discussion 	Group discussions
13.00-14.30	<p>Grand Finale on systems leadership</p>	Prof Sir David Nabarro

THANK YOU

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