

THE FIRST FAO/WHO/AU INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE ADDIS ABABA, 12-13 FEBRUARY 2019

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO)



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected as WHO Director-General for a five-year term by WHO Member States at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017. He is the first WHO Director-General to have been elected from multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly, and is the first person from the WHO African Region to serve as WHO's chief technical and administrative officer.

Immediately after taking office on 1 July 2017, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus outlined five key priorities for the Organization: universal health coverage; health emergencies; women's, children's and adolescents' health; health impacts of climate and environmental change; and a transformed WHO.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus served as Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012–2016. In this role, he led efforts to negotiate the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which 193 countries committed to the financing necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus served as Ethiopia's Minister of Health from 2005–2012, where he led a comprehensive reform of the country's health system. The transformation he led as Ethiopia's Minister of Health improved access to health care for millions of people. Under his leadership Ethiopia invested in critical health infrastructure, expanded its health workforce, and developed innovative health financing mechanisms. Born in the city of Asmara, Eritrea, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus holds a PhD in Community Health from the University of Nottingham and an MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases from the University of London. He is globally recognised as a health scholar, researcher, and diplomat with first-hand experience in research, operations, and leadership in emergency responses to epidemics.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus the Decoration of the Order of Serbian Flag in 2016, and was awarded the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award in recognition of his contributions to the field of public health in 2011.