

REGIONAL ACTION GROUP FOR SOUTH ASIA: INUAGURAL VIRTUAL MEETING

Context

The dramatic spread of COVID-19 has disrupted lives, livelihoods, communities and businesses worldwide. This pandemic requires an unprecedented response from all stakeholders, including bold steps taken at country level, and deeper regional cooperation and coordination. As the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation, the World Economic Forum, acting as partner to the World Health Organization, has constituted the COVID Action Platform.

Complementing this initiative, the newly created Regional Action Group for South Asia - a senior leaders' community spanning government, business, media and academia - will meet regularly to address critical issues arising from the COVID-19 crisis. This inaugural meeting will allow leaders to exchange critical information to support whole-of-society efforts to build regional resilience in the face of the pandemic.

Date and time: Thursday 23 April, 15:00-16:00 CEST (Geneva time).

Format: Virtual roundtable under the Chatham House Rule

Opening remarks by:

- **Sheikh Hasina**, Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Remarks by:

- **Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh**, Regional Director for South-East Asia, World Health Organization
- **Arnaud Bernaert**, Head, Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare, World Economic Forum

Chaired by:

- **Borge Brende**, President, World Economic Forum
- **Aditi Vyas**, Head of Business Engagement, South Asia, World Economic Forum

Agenda

Welcome Remarks

Borge Brende, President, World Economic Forum (2 mins)

Opening Remarks

Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister, Bangladesh (5 mins)

Special Briefing

Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director for South-East Asia, World Health Organization (3 mins)

Insights from the Forum's Healthcare Community

Arnaud Bernaert, Head, Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare, World Economic Forum (2 mins)

Interventions from the Regional Action Group

The moderator will call upon relevant contributors to share their views (20 mins)

Open Discussion

Open discussion on building regional resilience to the pandemic (20 mins)

Wrap Up

Summary of highlights and next steps from the World Economic Forum (5 mins)

- *Next RAG virtual meeting and Sherpas' meeting*

Virtual Meeting Details: <https://toplink.weforum.org/sessions/a0W0X00000HQF8wUAH/regional-action-group-virtual-roundtable>

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