

## About the Lancet Series on Diplomacy for Health

This Series aims to examine the intersection of diplomacy, politics and public health in the changing geopolitical world order and against this backdrop, contribute to the practice, research and education of health diplomacy.

The Series will present a new framework as well as explore outcomes of health diplomacy, by looking at differing practitioner views on “successes” and “failures” of health diplomacy as well as tensions between national and regional/global interests. The series will also look to the future and propose strategies and priorities for how health diplomacy can be used to navigate a new complex world and reaching better outcomes. Throughout the Series, perspectives from new emerging fora and actors as well as powerhouses of the future, will be included.

The target audience includes the community of practice of health diplomacy, defined as spanning both public and private sectors as well as civil society and academia.

To sum up, the Series will provide:

- **A new framework and approaches:** The ambition is to provide *a new go to analytical framework* for health diplomacy, drawing broadly on both existing literature and recent developments in diplomacy and global governance in general. The latter will also build on new empirical material from practitioners with extensive experience in the field of health diplomacy.
- **Enhanced, broader and more in-depth knowledge:** Through interdisciplinary literature reviews and practitioner-oriented case studies, the Series will contribute to a more in-depth as well as practical understanding of the dynamics around health-related regional and global political processes, both in the past and more recently in the current world order.
- **An agenda of action for a strengthened community of practice:** Bringing together diplomats, health professionals, academics and civil society representatives to produce this series will be contribute to an expanded cadre of professionals skilled in diplomacy and political leadership within health-related processes (and beyond). The strategies and recommendations proposed will also serve as the start of a conversation that will continue following the launch of the Series in various fora.

The series will contain four potential papers, targeted to be published by mid-2026:

### Paper 1

Led by researchers at the **American University of Beirut and Georgetown University** the first paper in the series will take stock of existing research and provide **an updated definition and taxonomy of global health diplomacy against the background of a changing world order as well as practitioner perspectives**. Researchers have completed a literature review, a bibliographic review and developed a draft conceptual framework. Ongoing work is focused on refining the framework and definitions based on existing literature and practitioner input.

## Paper 2

The second paper will draw on insights from the community of practice to assess what are **perceived by practitioners from around the world as “successes” and “failures” in global health diplomacy**. The paper will then seek to gain a deeper understanding of aspects pertaining to these perceived outcomes. This paper is helmed by the **London School of Economics and Institute for Global Health and Development in Guinea Bissau**. A survey of more than 100 health diplomacy practitioners was undertaken, and four case studies of “successes” and “failures” were identified. Practitioner interviews are currently being carried out for each of the case studies.

## Paper 3

Led by **Peking University and NIMS University in Jaipur**, the third paper focuses on the **tensions, dynamics and interplay between national autonomy and global and regional responsibility in health diplomacy** and will investigate how health diplomacy can bridge this gap given the changing world order. The study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining a systematic literature review and practitioner interviews. Each method is designed to provide complementary insights into the practices, challenges, and opportunities faced by policymakers and stakeholders in selected countries, including Brazil, China, Germany, India, Japan, Qatar, South Africa, Thailand, UK, and the USA.

## Paper 4

The fourth paper will **take stock of the other papers as well as draw on a foresight exercise, against the background of megatrends that may affect global health diplomacy beyond 2030**. Co-chaired by the **National University of Singapore, Karolinska institute and CEPS (Centre for European Policy Studies)** the paper will seek to identify some of these drivers and what global health diplomacy will look like in the future. Desk research and an internal consortium survey, including with practitioners of the group, was carried out in order to prepare a shortlist of key drivers possibly affecting health diplomacy in the future. In a subsequent step, a virtual foresight workshop took place on 9 May 2025 that was attended by over 20 participants from Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and North America. In the following step, input from the workshop will be used to draft potential scenarios for the future of health diplomacy beyond 2030. In the final stage of the foresight exercise, experts will be convened for a second workshop to discuss **policy recommendations and strategies** based on the different scenarios.