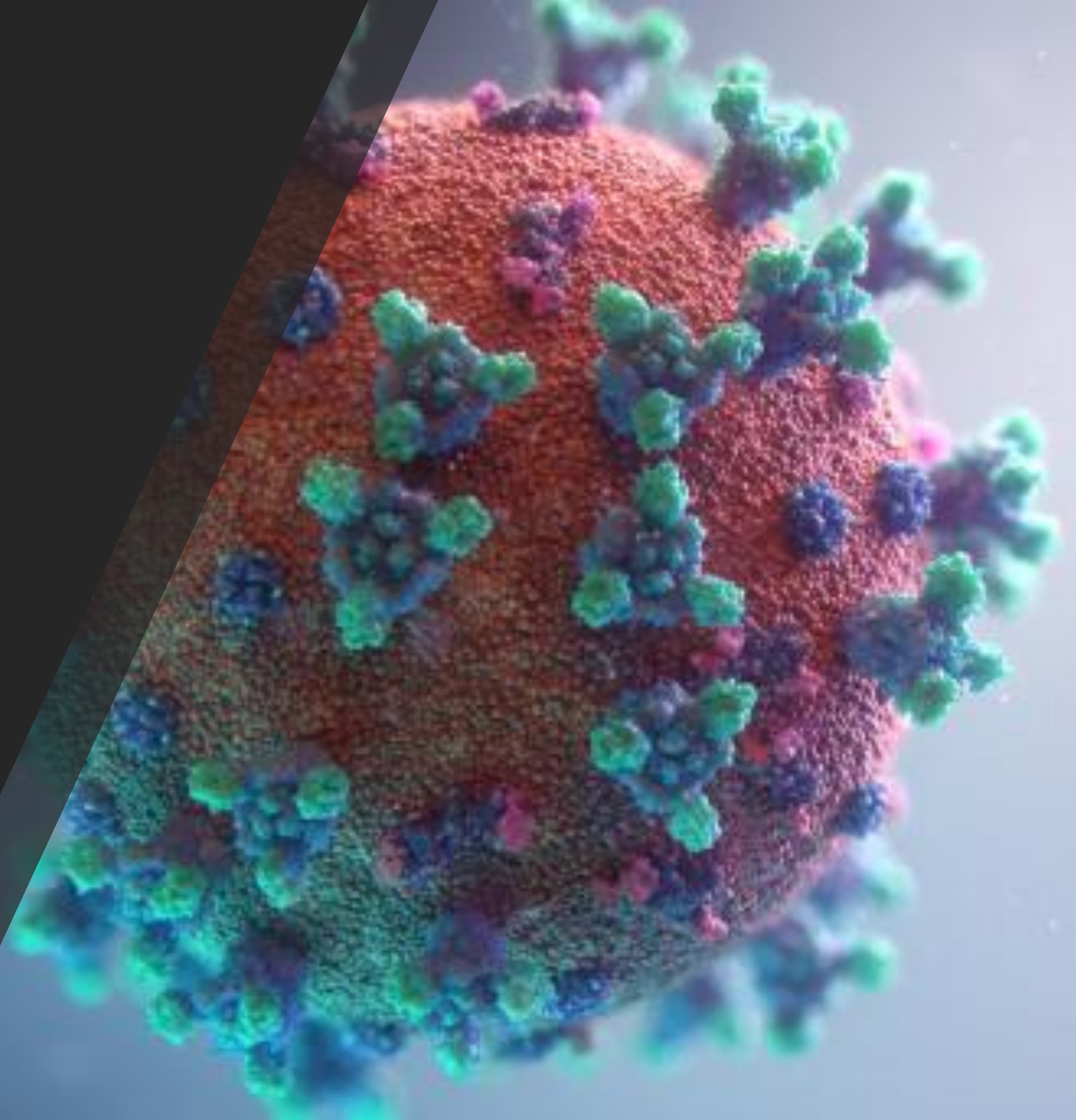


COVID19

7 Lessons learned

- Professor Ilona Kickbusch
- Global Health Centre
- Graduate Institute Geneva
- AMS Lecture 2. November 2020



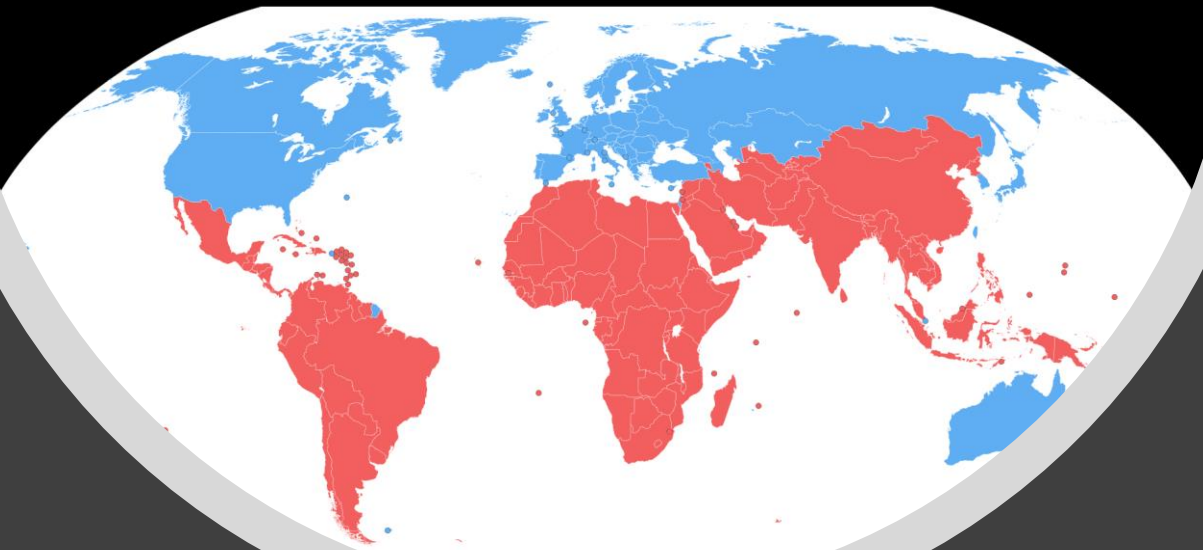
Transformation

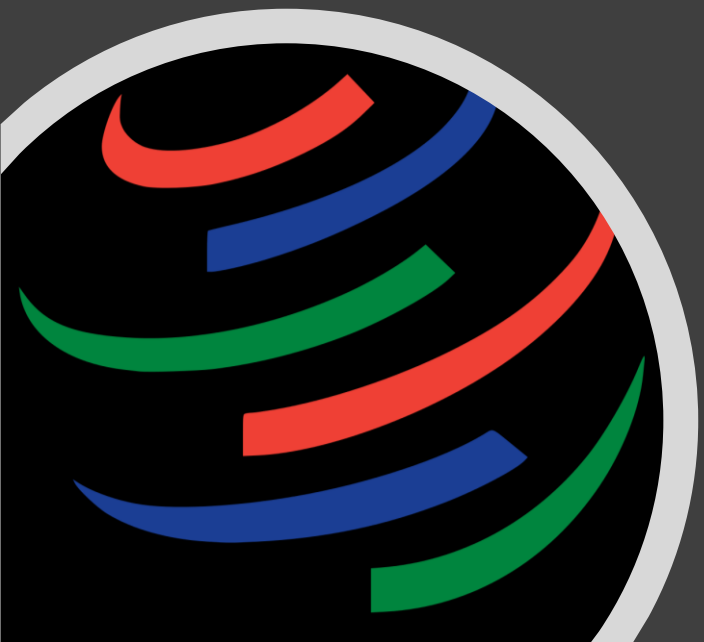


- The political choice in the global risk society:
- denial, apathy, and transformation
- **It asks just one question: how do we want to live?**
- Will we continue to fly blind or will we accept that our societies must share both the risks and rewards of wealth and value creation and directing economic growth so all citizens benefit.”
(Mariana Mazzucato)

Failures

- **Two forms of magical thinking:**
 - It is them not us
 - It is a big conspiracy
- **One dominant narrative of who is advanced and who is backward – a need to recalibrate notions of knowledge and expertise**



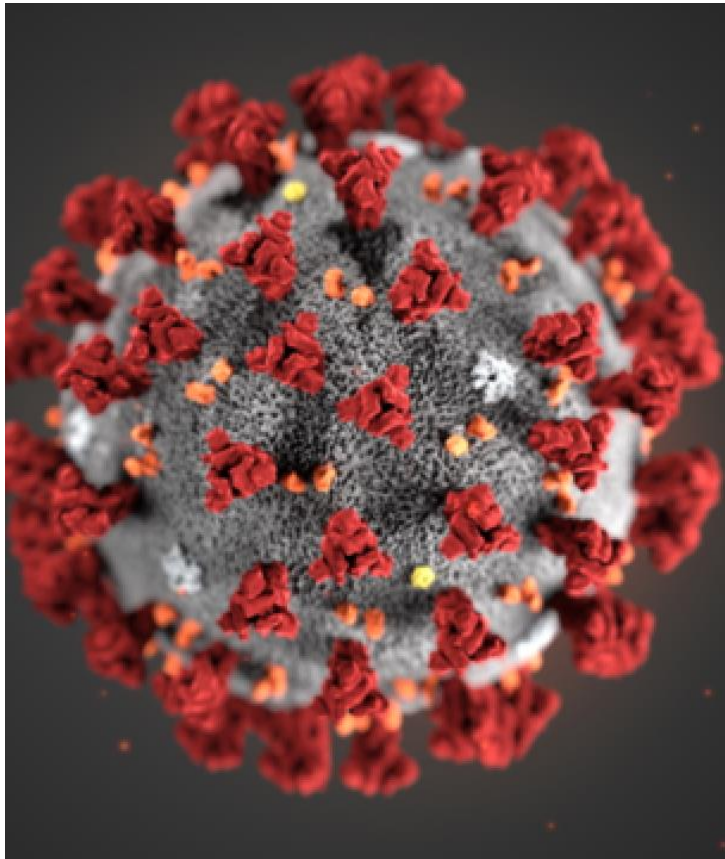


Failures

- The first call was to “save ourselves,” spearheaded by the very country that had been at the centre of creating the United Nations. But also in Europe and even within countries
- Global instruments and institutions, indeed multilateralism as an agreed approach to common problems, were left in limbo.
- Weaknesses of The International Health Regulations, the World Health Organisation
- Positions in the multilateral trading system - DOHA Declaration is confronted with vaccine nationalism
- **THESE FAILURES HAVE BEEN YEARS IN THE MAKING**

Lesson 1

Political focus



- **We must learn to see that the greatest risk lies not with the virus but vaccine nationalism and the unwillingness to cooperate.**
- “Governments must use the COVID19 crisis to address the flaws in our multilateral system and structures.”
- That is why the political focus must now be on **how to “pandemic proof” the multilateral system** so that it does not implode if some members spiral out of control and can ensure collective action and global solidarity.
- TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS ARE INSUFFICIENT

Political Determinants of Health

Political Determinants of Health

Wars, conflicts, biopower, biopolitics, necropolitics, racism, distribution of power and money, global market forces, global and county specific policies, internal conflict, factionalism

Social Determinants of Health

The conditions in which people are born, grow, live and age

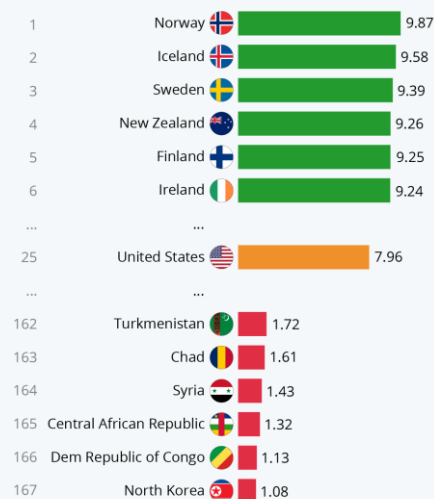
Biological Predisposition

- WE CANNOT DODGE POLITICS AND
- **POWER RELATIONSHIPS IN GLOBAL HEALTH**
- Global Health and public health have always been political
- Venues and methods of navigation of power and interests
- Populist nationalism vs global solidarity
- Strong WHO

Lesson 2: Democracies and COVAX

The Best And Worst Countries For Democracy

2019 democracy index score
(10=full democracy, 0=authoritarian regime)*



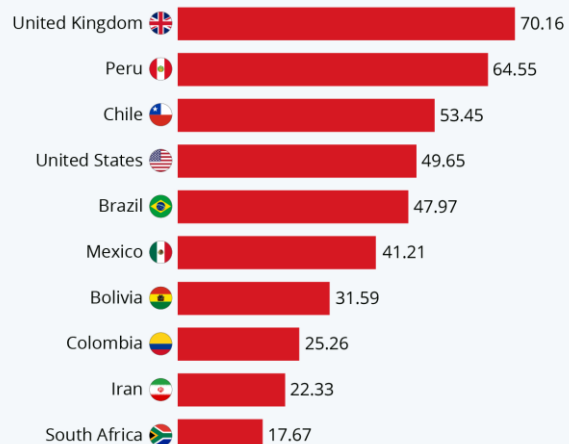
* Scoring categories based on electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, functioning of government, political participation, political culture
Source: The Economist



statista

COVID-19 Deaths Per 100,000 Inhabitants: A Comparison

COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 of the population
in the 10 worst affected countries*



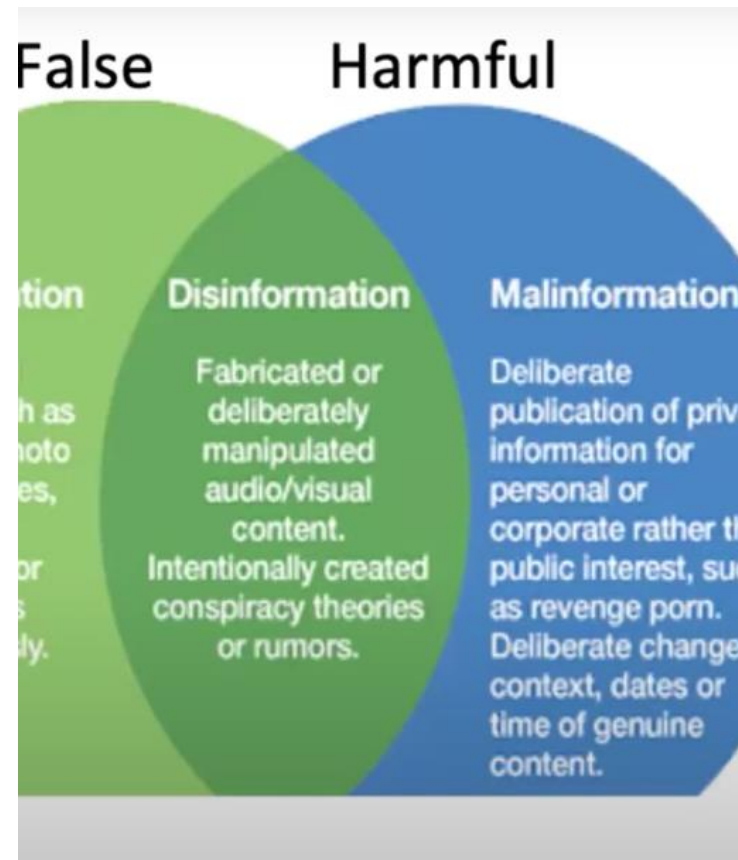
* As of August 09, 2020 at 03:00 AM EDT
Source: Johns Hopkins University



statista

- We have seen that neither level of development nor political regimes are good predictors of pandemic management.
- Looking closer it has become evident that **those democracies that were defined by more populist and devise politics did not deal as well with the virus**. Rather they searched for scapegoats, neglected scientific advice and denied global solidarity.
- There can be no health security without social security. There can be no successful pandemic response without the trust of citizens in their government

Communities, Literacies and Infodemics

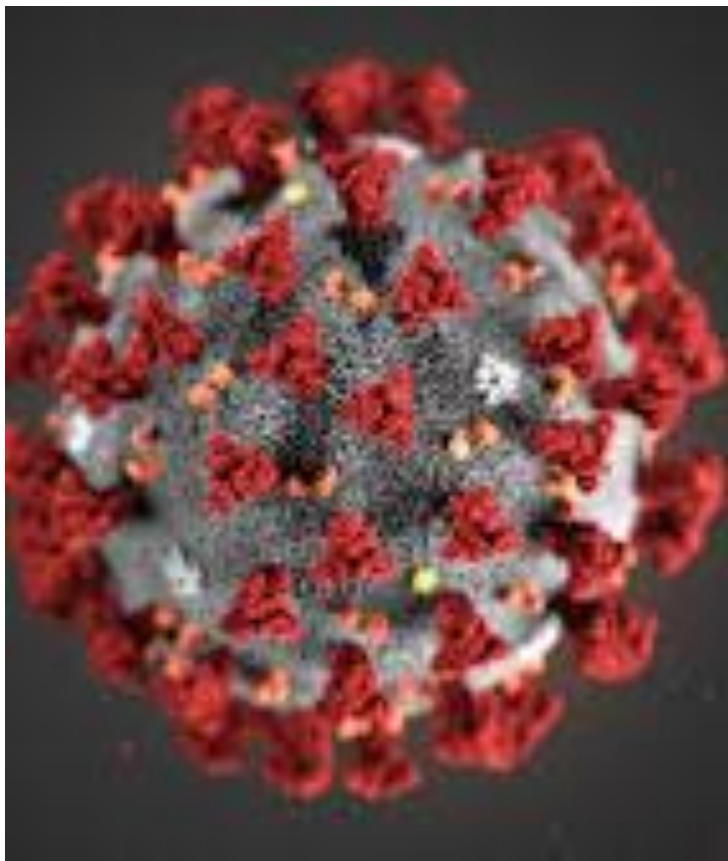


- Health literacy
 - DIGITAL LITERACY
 - Civic literacy – democratic engagement
 - Community involvement
-
- **ENGAGE TO ESTABLISH TRUST IN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**
 - **“PANDEMIC PROOF” DEMOCRACIES**

 - **Boils down to capable and competent governments and a population that is willing to cooperate**

Lesson 3

Risks and Power

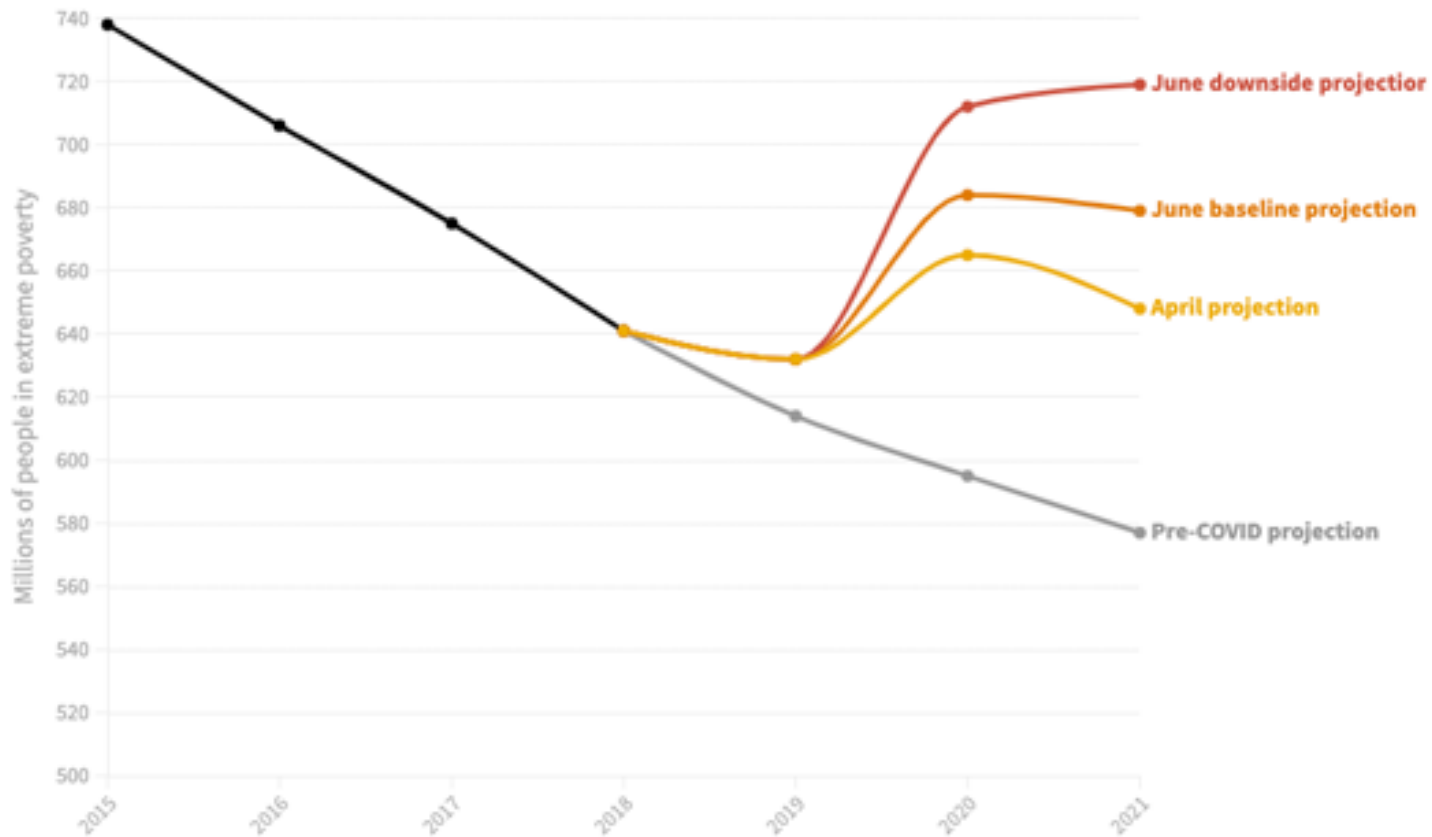


- Understand the unambiguous relationship between risk and power: who defines the risks, who takes the political decisions and who suffers the consequences.

This raises questions on the

- interface between science and politics,
 - the role of democratic processes in times of emergency rule, and
 - the fundamental disparities within a society or at the global level.
- **From a political perspective it is not true that viruses do not discriminate; they feed off the political, economic, and social flaws in our societies and so take on the features of those respective societies**

Blowback



- The power structure of the COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to push an additional 88 million to 115 million people into extreme poverty in 2020, with the total rising to as many as 150 million by 2021, depending on the severity of the economic contraction.
- 40 million Americans filed for [unemployment during the pandemic](#), but [billionaires saw their net worth increase](#) by half a trillion dollars.

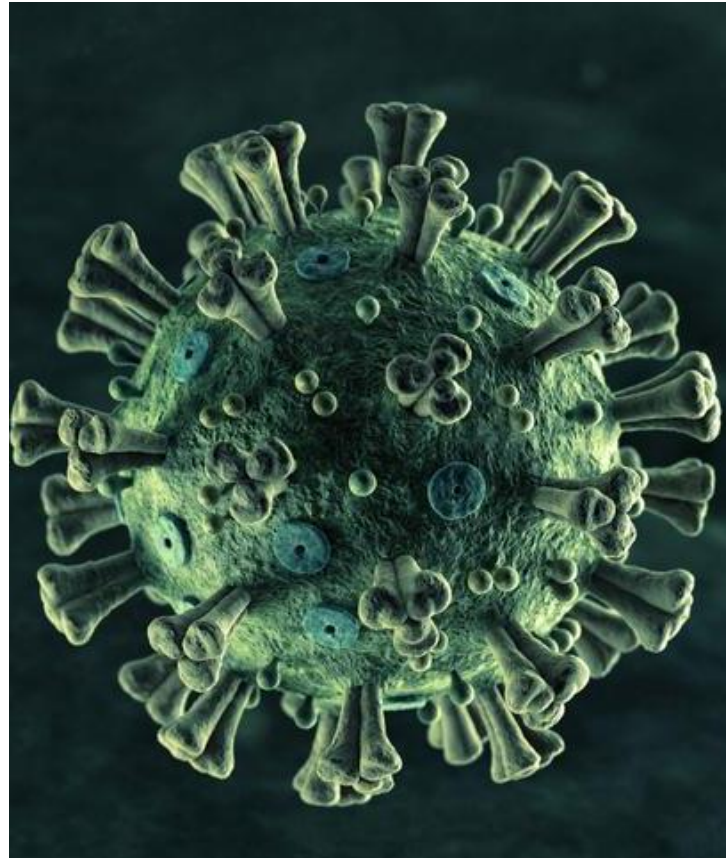
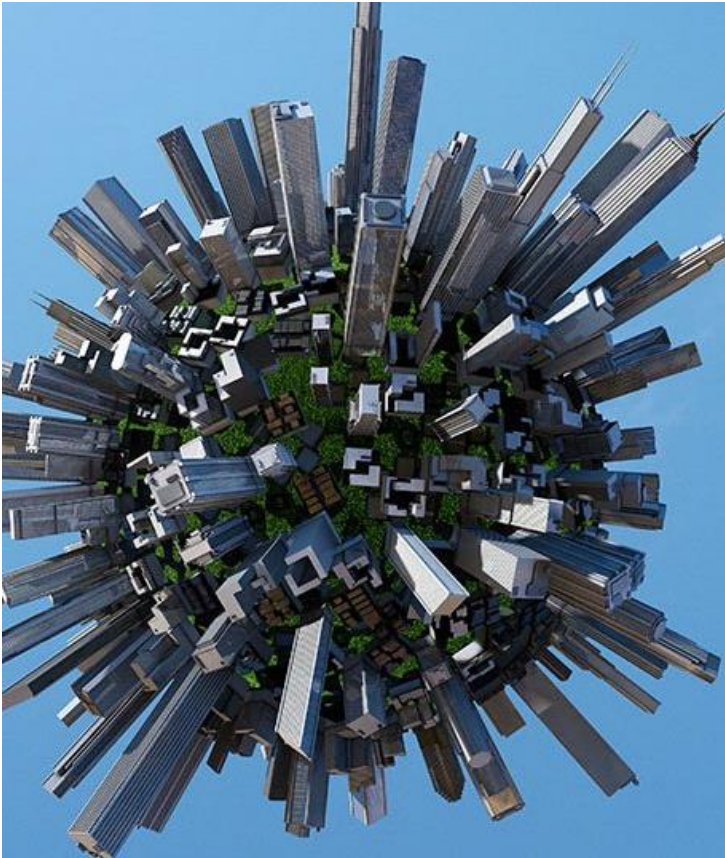
Blowback



- WTO DG: More hurdles for Okonjo-Iweala, as US threatens to veto her emergence
- **Proposal submitted by India and South Africa for a temporary waiver of certain TRIPS obligations they said would facilitate an appropriate response to COVID-19.**
- **The proposal suggests a waiver for all WTO members on the implementation, application and enforcement of certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement in relation to the “prevention, containment or treatment” of COVID-19.**

Lesson 4

Accumulation of Risks

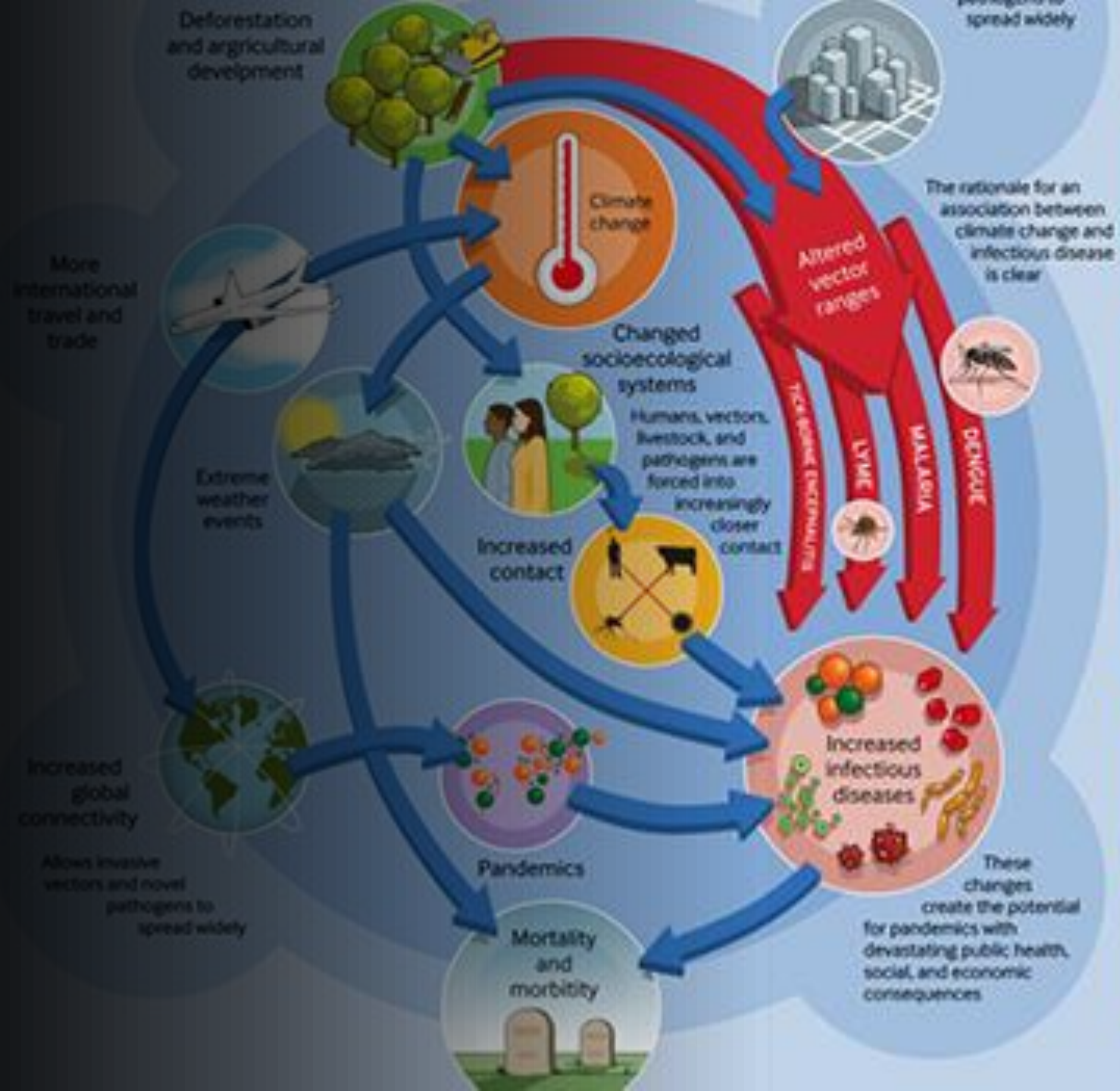


- The pandemic is but one component of a larger pattern of risk: **global risk society**.
- We live in the *Anthropocene*, which is defined by the **accumulation of risks** – ecological, pandemic, financial, social, military, terrorist, biochemical, and informational – all of which are **interconnected and feed off each other**.
- All these risks are global – we cannot EXIT

Global risk society

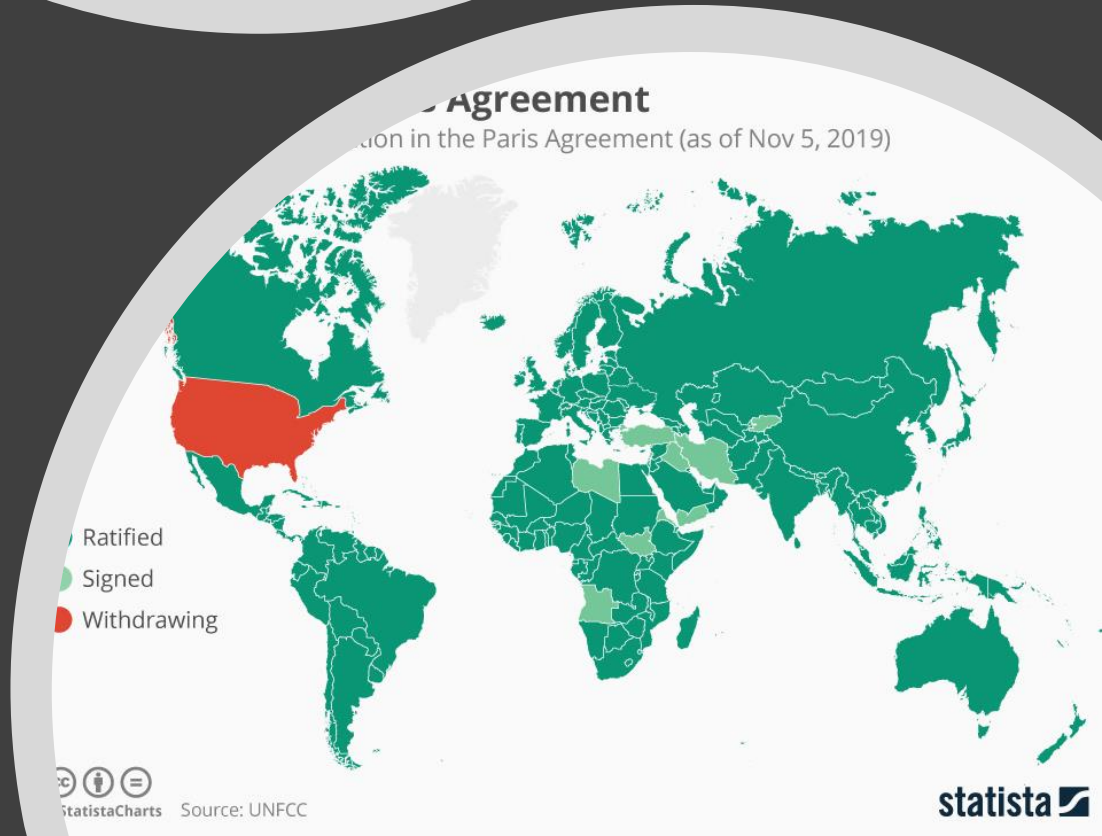
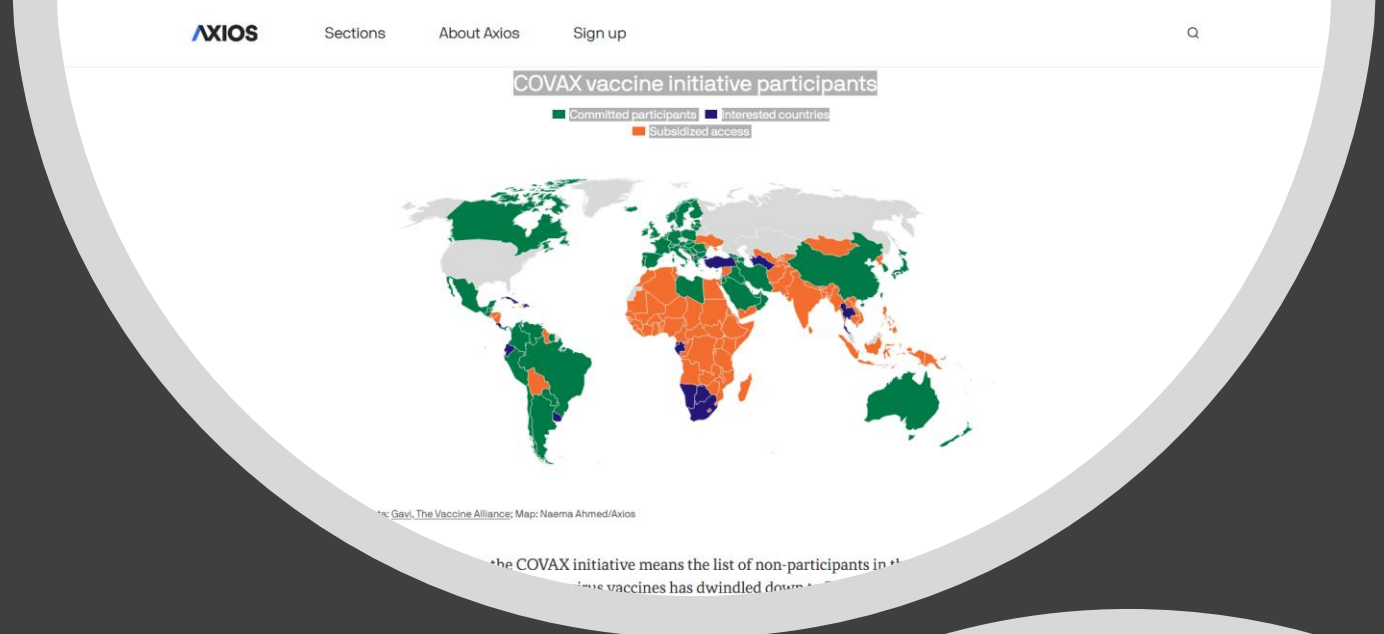
“manufactured uncertainties”

delocalization
incalculableness
non-compensability



Paris + COVAX

- Covax the “biggest multilateral effort since the [Paris climate agreement](#)».
- As of October 14, 2020, 183 countries with a combined 93% of the world's population are either eligible for subsidized access or have said they intend to participate, though some have yet to sign formal agreements. [This also includes China](#), making it a remarkable feat of collaboration.
- **The reference to the Paris Agreement is indeed pertinent – both ventures call for collective action regarding a key common good through a “civic culture of responsibility that transcends borders and conflicts.”²**



Lesson 5

A rights based global contract



**WORKING
TOGETHER
SAVES LIVES**

TRANQUILITY APPEALING GOOD MOOD LIFE
CONTAINER ONLY INDUSTRY 2 2
TRANSPORTATION
**COMMON
GOODS**
CORPORAT
GORGEOUS SUMMER ELEGANT

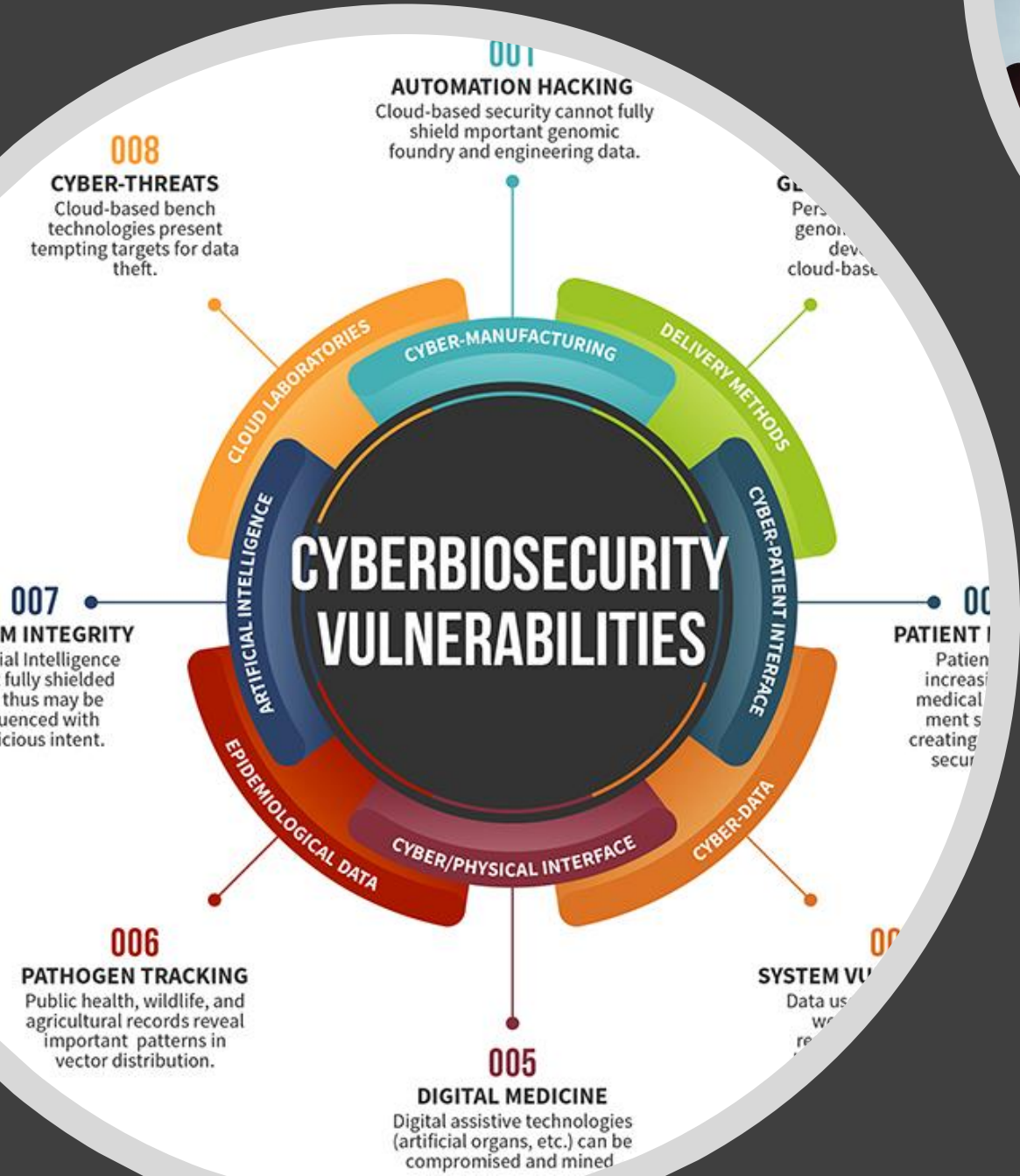
- **NO ONE IS SAFE UNTIL ALL ARE SAFE**
- **DIGNITY AND EQUITY**
- *a new dynamic in relation to common goods and collective action is emerging.*
- Financing of common goods must be addressed
- Debt cancellation is a must
- New alliances for multilateralism must step up
- WHO must be strengthened, IHR must be revised
- UHC in the centre
- Scientific collaboration must have new instruments – it has skyrocketed in trying to understand the virus and find a therapeutic response ACT-A
- Regional bodies such as the European Union as well as the African Union must strengthen their health competencies
- Urban preparedness is a must

Global Solidarity Test Case



The make and break for this new dynamic of ensuring common goods lies with the COVAX facility – the new global risk-sharing mechanism for pooled procurement and equitable distribution of eventual COVID-19 vaccine; the ambitious goal is to distribute 2 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines before the end of 2021.

The distribution of coronavirus vaccines will be the defining global challenge of 2021.



Global open source
Pandemic Alert System

Lesson 6

Think beyond the present crisis



- What crisis must the multilateral system be prepared for?
- How must ALL people be protected?
- *How do we establish*
- global level surveillance and analysis of risks (multi-hazard –multi sectoral forecasting) GPMB
- anticipatory triggers
- Alignment of response
- A new way of financing collective preparedness and response

• **«spaces for alternative futures»**

Lesson 7

Transformation: a generational task



- Now we know that alongside fighting the pandemic to be safe we must protect multilateralism at the global level and the democratic model at the national level.
- This is critical because the COVID 19 pandemic is also testing our democratic way of life.
- The pandemic reminds us that we can only thrive if we protect each other against existential risks. We can never be fully secure in a global risk society, therefore preparedness, collective action and solidarity are our best bet.
- For pandemics as well as the other incalculable risks our way of living has generated, we need to prepare with a new mind frame; **by being responsible for one another and for the planet on which we live.**

Navigating in a changed landscape for human and planetary health and wellbeing



«The risk of catastrophes haunts the poor» (Ulrich Beck)

- The focus of building into the future must be the relation between risk and power and risk and inequality.
 - Health is a political choice.
-

