By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Member States committed to ensuring the health and well-being of all people (SDG 3), which includes access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all and supporting vaccines and medicines for diseases that primarily affect developing countries.

In November 2015, former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon convened a High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines and asked it to propose solutions to boost research and development and access to health technologies in a manner that ensures policy coherence between public health, trade, and intellectual property. The Panel concluded its work in September 2016 and its report was welcomed by the former UN Secretary-General, several UN Member States, civil society groups, and was appeared in resolutions of the General Assembly and Human Rights Council. The High-Level Panel’s recommendations are being further discussed at the World Health Organization and the WTO TRIPS Council.

This side-event on the margins of the High-Level Political Forum will unpack the relevance of the High-Level Panel’s recommendations to the health-related SDGs and examine how policy coherence can promote health technology innovation and access.