

Dr Maria Neira
Assistant Director-General, ad interim
Division of UHC/Healthier Populations

Director
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health

World Health Organization



Since 1 December 2022, Dr Maria P. Neira is the Assistant Director-General, ad interim, of the Division of UHC/Healthier Populations.

Dr Maria P. Neira is ALSO the Director of the Department *of Environment, Climate Change and Health* at the World Health Organization. Prior to that she served as Under-Secretary of Health and President of the Spanish Food Safety Agency.

Dr Neira began her career as a medical coordinator working for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). She then spent several years working in different African countries during armed conflicts.

Dr Neira is a Medical Doctor by training, specialized in Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases in Paris, France, Master of Public Health and a University Diploma in Human Nutrition, Epidemic Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Among many distinctions, she has been awarded the Médaille de “L'Ordre National du Mérite” by the Government of France and received an “Extraordinary Woman” award by HM Queen Letizia of Spain. In early 2019 and again in 2022, she was nominated among the top 100 policy influencers in health and climate change”.
