

### ***Session 3: UHC and accountability: Imaging global health with justice: lessons learned from Ebola and Zika epidemics***

Main speaker of the third session was Lawrence O. Gostin, University Professor at Georgetown University's Faculty of Law and Director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law. Prof. Gostin started his talk by emphasizing that a lot has been achieved in the field of global health in the past years and decades, but that these achievements are not equally distributed among countries and populations. He stated three questions that are essential to ask and answer in order to achieve a safe and healthy world:

- What would an ideal state of global health look like?
- What would an ideal state of global health of justice look like?
- How do we achieve this?

It is essential to aim at global health in combination with justice. Prof. Gostin read out two emotional narratives of young people from Africa and from the USA, that lacked this combination and lacked hope for a better future.

To achieve basic health in a population, three factors must be regarded and analysed: universal health care, basic public health services and socioeconomic determinants of health. The most important and influential factor are the socioeconomic determinants of health, such as income support, gender empowerment, housing and jobs. However, these determinants have very little to do with the health sector. More importantly, regarding the health sector, are public health and universal health coverage, which may be seen as an extension of primary health care. Prof. Gostin stressed the fact that public health, including but not limited to surveillance, epidemiology, tobacco and alcohol control and clean air and water, must be at least as important as universal health care.

Bernd Grzeszick, professor for constitutional law and philosophy of law at Heidelberg University, stressed the fact that to achieve the goals emphasized by Prof. Gostin, they must be narrowed down. Priorities must be set in order to convince politics that equality and justice have to be attained.

The second respondent, Remco van de Pas from the Department of Public Health in Antwerp, primarily focused on the economic aspects of universal health care, saying that the interdisciplinary approach to the matter should be increased. Furthermore, redistribution must be moved from the national to the supra-national level and politics need to become more involved.

The last respondent, Suerie Moon, is a political scientist and the director of research at the Global Health Center in Geneva. Her main focus was the question of accountability. There is no authority above state level that may be held accountable, so accountability on a supranational level is even more difficult than on a national level. She concluded by stressing the importance of defining responsibilities and of network accountability.