



**PMAC** | PRINCE MAHIDOL  
AWARD CONFERENCE **2024**

**PL0**

**GEOPOLITICS, HUMAN SECURITY AND HEALTH EQUITY IN AN ERA OF  
POLYCRISES**

## | BACKGROUND

Geopolitics, often overlooked in the realm of global health, holds significant influence over our understanding, addressing, and overcoming health challenges. By shifting our focus towards geopolitics, we can gain a better comprehension of the forces that shape the economic, social, and physical landscapes affecting the health of individuals. This includes a critical examination of international, regional and national governance mechanisms including the United Nations and Bretton Woods institutions. Recent years, there has been a renewed focus on addressing persistent inequalities in influence, resources, and health, shedding light on historical injustices such as colonialism and imperialism contributing to health inequities and impacting progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the pledge to leave no one behind.

## | OBJECTIVES

The PMAC 2024 aims to explore the impact of geopolitics on global health since World War II, adopting a historical and forward looking perspective, and deliberate on how these influences can be contested or mitigated as we strive to create a fairer and more equitable world and get back on track for achieving health related SDGs in amidst the challenges of polycrises.



Moderator / Panelist

## Irene Torres

*Technical Director*

Fundacion Octaedro and Coordinator of the Observatory on the Implementation of the Health Information System in Ecuador  
Ecuador

Irene Torres is Technical Director of Fundacion Octaedro in Ecuador and Coordinator of the Observatory on the Implementation of the Health Information System (Ecuador). She has a PhD in health promotion and is Strategic Advisor at the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and member of the Advisory Committee of the Health Systems Global Fragile and Conflict Afflicted Settings Thematic Working Group. She is also a former Board Member of the Ecuadorian Society of Public Health. She conducts research on health policy and health systems using an equity perspective, and on health and wellbeing, community participation in health promotion, migration and health, and school-based health promotion. She has published in BMJ Global Health, International Journal of Epidemiology, Health Policy and Planning, Health Promotion International, The Lancet Global Health, and Health Education.