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## PANEL SESSION 1 – Monday June 8, 2026 | 1pm – 2pm

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### [PN01 – Challenges And Development Pathways Of Digital Health Technology Assessment: Perspectives From Low- And Middle-Income Countries](#)

**Contributors:** Yingyao Chen, Gainel Ussatayeva, Dominic Nkhoma, Esra Meltem Koc

**Summary:** Digital Health Technologies (DHT) are expanding rapidly, yet how to comprehensively evaluate its true value and potential challenges through Digital Health Technology Assessment (DHTA) still remains undefined, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This session examines practical challenges and development pathways of DHTA, summarizing HTA insights on DHTA from LMICs in Asia and Africa

### [PN02 – Greenlight Or Redline: Health Technology Assessment Across The Artificial Intelligence Lifecycle](#)

**Contributors:** Marco Marchetti, Burcak Aydin, Leandro Pecchia, Elizabeth Shanahan

**Summary:** This forward-looking panel explores how HTA can serve as the strategic compass for AI across its full lifecycle—aligning evidence, ethics, and efficiency under the EU AI Act and HTA Regulation. Bringing together voices from academia, an EU HTA authority, and industry, the session offers real cases, regulatory insights, and a practical decision map for responsible adoption.

### [PN03 – Health Economics Methods Advisory \(HEMA\)](#)

**Contributors:** Helen Knight, Brett McQueen, Samantha Benham-Hermetz, Nicole Mittmann

**Summary:** HEMA was established in 2025 by England’s National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), the USA-based Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) and Canada’s Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) as an authoritative, independent international voice on health economic methods. This panel will reflect on the first white paper on appropriate benefits for economic evaluation and explore future priorities and topics.

### [PN05 – HTAfrica Network At HTAi: Regional Bridges For Economic Stability, Strengthening Equity, And Sustainability Of Healthcare In Africa](#)

**Contributors:** Debjani Mueller, Raymond Matey, Yanga Nokhepheyi, Nadia Yakhelef

**Summary:** HTAi HTAfrica, an emerging platform in Africa, seeks to enhance evidence-informed decision-making through regional solidarity, shared learning, and capacity building, advocating for transparent, inclusive HTA-based policies to foster a healthier, more resilient Africa. We will examine strategies for co-creating, operationalising, and implementing sustainable solutions to facilitate the institutionalisation of HTA at national and regional levels.



### [PN06 – Legislation For Rare Diseases Driving Change In HTA](#)

**Contributors:** Karen Facey, Jana Hlavacova, Paola Vasquez, Monica Ferrie

**Summary:** Rare diseases create a range of challenges for evidence generation and assessment, but there is a high need for effective treatments. This panel will explore how recent legislative changes in three different regions have led to the creation of new systems for HTA in rare diseases that take novel approaches to evidence evaluation, increase stakeholder involvement and impact decision-making.

### [PN07 – Reflections From The 2026 HTAi Global Policy Forum: Health Technology Assessment Under Pressure And The Health Technology Trilemma](#)

**Contributors:** Rebecca Trowman, James Ryan, Aline Silva, Wim Goettsch

**Summary:** This interactive panel session will reflect on and build from the 2026 Global Policy Forum (GPF), which explored the theme “Health Technology Assessment Under Pressure: Navigating the Health Technology Trilemma”.

### [PN08 – Rethinking Fairness In Health Technology Assessment: Addressing Equity Gaps In Topic Selection For Orphan Drugs](#)

**Contributors:** William Padula, Fatemeh Hosseini, Antal Zemlenyi

**Summary:** This session explores how existing HTA systems systematically under-prioritize Orphan Medicinal Products (OMPs), despite their transformative potential for small patient populations. Panelists will present conceptual and empirical insights from high-, middle-, and low-income settings, highlighting mechanisms for more inclusive topic selection. Discussion will emphasize integrating ethical reasoning, social value judgments, and participatory processes into HTA prioritization frameworks worldwide.