



Advancing innovation to save lives

September 15, 2014

Excellency, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Member States of the UN:

We, the below signatory organizations request that the UN fully supports in the post-2015 SDG-Framework the research, development, and delivery of new and improved medicines, vaccines, and other health tools for the diseases and health conditions that predominantly affect low- and middle-income countries as well as marginalized, vulnerable populations globally.

Thanks to the leadership of the UN and investments by Member States, the current Millennium Development Goals have made major contributions to improving the health and lives of millions of people around the world. A sustained focus on some of the greatest global health challenges has led to enormous progress in many areas, including significant improvements in the development and delivery of health tools such as drugs to treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. Efforts to tackle diseases have also helped underpin progress in other important areas, such as gender equality, child mortality, and maternal health. Millions of lives have been saved.

However, major challenges remain, and the health burden imposed by poverty remains far too high. In this context, it is essential that the post-2015 development agenda retains a strong focus on eliminating poverty-related diseases and conditions. The post-2015 agenda must build on previous achievements to ensure that healthy lives and access to health services can be achieved in an equitable and sustainable way, leaving no one behind. This means ensuring universal access to proven health interventions. But it also means developing and delivering new health technologies which can help address the shortcomings of existing interventions and sustainably reduce morbidity and mortality over the longer term. This will require continued support for the research, development, and delivery of new tools to the combat major epidemics like HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria, as well as other poverty-related diseases and conditions ranging from neglected tropical diseases to reproductive, maternal, and child health. Continuous investment of human and financial resources in science, technology, and innovation is essential to achieve both economic and social development for all.

We are encouraged by the current inclusion of the need to support the development of new medicines and vaccines for diseases particularly affecting developing countries in the Zero Draft document of the SDGs. Concern remains, however, about the omission of medical devices and diagnostics which also contribute to improving health outcomes, the lack of clarity on how this effort will be funded, and how supporting policies, incentives, capacity building, collaboration, and knowledge and technology sharing will be defined and implemented.

As organizations working to save lives and improve health, we urge you to commit explicit and full support to health research and related policies and capacity building as a core component of a new, post-2015 agenda for equitable health and sustainable development for all. We ask that you press Member States to offer similar support, and to formally assess how to measure progress towards this goal, and how to fully and sustainably finance and enable the research, development, and delivery of essential new and improved health tools.

Sincerely,

ACTION

Aeras

African Services Committee

AIDS-Fondet

Amsterdam Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Asociacion Gestion Salud Poblacion

Association of Commonwealth Universities

AVAC

Bishkek Feminist Collective SQ

Boston University

Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Caribbean Public Health Agency

Caribbean Vulnerable Communities

Ciflorpan, University of Panamá

COHRED

Comité Nacional Cubano de Bioética

Community Health Evangelism Programme

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Department of Epidemiology, University

Hospital F Hached, Tunisia

Department of Psychiatry, Chiang Mai

University

Dept of Paediatrics, Irrua Teaching Hospital

Edo State Nigeria

Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung

Development of People's Foundation

Drug Discovery Unit, University of Dundee

Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative

Duke University

ECOM – Eurasian Coalition on Male Health

Egerton University

Estonian Network PLWHIV

European Investment Bank

European Public Health Association

Euvadis

Facultad de Quimica, Universidad de la

Republica, Uruguay

Faculty of Tropical Medicine

Federal Teaching Hospital Abakaliki, Ebonyi

State, Nigeria

FIND

FIOCRUZ

Fiocruz Minas

Friends Africa (Friends of the Global Fund Africa)

GAT

George Institute

GESPAM

GlaxoSmithKline

Global Alliance for TB Drug Development

Global Health Advocates

Global Health Consulting

Global Health Council

Global Health Technologies Coalition

Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise

Government of Kenya

gTt-VIH (Spain)

Hanoi School of Public Health

Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria Edo

State Chapter,

HKMU

Hospital Nelson Piccolo

Hospital Sionsberg

Hubert Kairuki Memorial University

icddr,b

IHCAI Foundation

INDEPTH Network

Institute of Human Nutrition and Food

Institute of Tropical Medicine

Institute Tropical Medicine Antwerp

Instituto de Investigaciones Epidemiologicas,

Academia Nacional de Medicina, Buenos

Aires

Instituto de Observação da Terra

Instituto de Salud Carlos III

Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde

Interagency Coalition on AIDS and

Development

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

International Consortium on Anti-Virals

International Organization for Chemical

Sciences in Development

International Partnership for Microbicides

International Vaccine Institute

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public

Health

Kairuki Memorial University

Kapkatet medical training Centre

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

Koningklijk Instituut voor de Tropen

Kyrgyz Indigo

La Gazette

Law Office of Laurel G. Yancey, P.C.
Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe
Medicines for Malaria Venture
menZDRAV Foundation
Micro Insurance Academy
Ministry of Education and Sports, Philippines
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,
Tanzania
Ministry of Health, Barbados
National AIDS Research Institute
National Institute of Health Research &
Development
NEPAD Science, Technology and Innovation
Hub
Netherlands Health Research Organization
Nige Academy of Science
North Eastern Council, Health Adviser
One child-one world
One Family Health
Oswaldo Cruz Institute
Parviflora Research Organization
PATH
People's Health Movement
Philippine Council for Health Research and
Development
Philippine Department of Health
Policy Cures
Population Council
Public Health Institute
Public Private Partnership Health Society
RALSA Foundation
Research Department, National Hospital
Rosales
Research into Cultura and Reproductive
Health For Sustainable Human Development
(RECARDEV)
RESULTS UK
Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands
Rural Community Health Research
SA Medical Research Council
Sabin Vaccine Institute
School of Population Health, University of
Queensland

Section of Infectious Diseases, Dept of
Medicine, St Luke's Medical Center, QC,
Philippines
Sensoa
South Africa-Department of Health
South African Research Ethics Training
Initiative
STOP AIDS
Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute
The Africa Centre for Health and Population
Studies
The Environment Ameliorators
The University of Western Australia
Tools To Work
Treatment Action Group
Uhamka University
Unidad de Investigacion Cientifica, Facultad
de Ciencias Medicas, UNAH
Universidad del Valle
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico
Universidade de Sao Paulo
University of Bergen
University of Birmingham
University of Brasilia
University of Cagliari
University of California, Irvine
University of Cape Coast
University of Edinburgh
University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho.
Ghana
University of KwaZulu-Natal
University of Melbourne
University of Nigeria, Nsukka
University of Oslo
University of the Witwatersrand
Washington Global Health Alliance
Y+ Network
Individuals:
Alix Beith
Francesca Coloni
Franko Family
Wanjiku Kabiru
Malcolm McNeil
Ophelia Mendoza
Ellene Mocria