

DATE: 7th May 2019

TO: Seth Berkley, CEO, *Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance*
Mariam Claesson, Director, *Global Financing Facility*
Peter Sands, Executive Director, *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*
Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, *UNAIDS*
Achim Steiner, Administrator, *UNDP*
Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, *UNFPA*
Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, *UNICEF*
Lelio Marmora, Executive Director, *Unitaid*
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, *UN Women*
David Malpass, President, *World Bank*
David Beasley, Executive Director, *World Food Programme*
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, *World Health Organization*

FROM: Global Action Plan Civil Society Advisory Group

Re: Community and Civil Society Consultation on the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being for All

Dear Sir/Madam,

We appreciate your collective commitment to the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being for All, and are writing to express our support for your continued efforts. As you know, the Plan is essential for establishing much needed harmony across global health agencies, investments, and programs. We are at a pivotal point in global health, a time at which immediate action is necessary if we are to reach the bold targets contained within SDG 3 by 2030. We hope that through these and other collaborative efforts, global health can finally realize these elusive wins and accelerate progress toward a healthier world in a more inclusive way.

Beyond the work of your respective agencies, it is critical that communities and civil society play a central role in the development and implementation of the Plan, at global and national levels. To date, such engagement has been limited, with inconsistent outreach and inclusion of these stakeholders, notwithstanding attempts by civil society to engage over the past few months. We write to ask that your organizations prioritize conversations with community and civil society representatives, including but not limited to the established Global Action Plan Civil Society Advisory Group. As with any consultation process, this one should be deliberate, transparent and robust enough for external parties to recognize their contributions in the end product and feel their input was valuable.

We acknowledge, with appreciation, the recent consultation hosted by the Global Action Plan secretariat, focusing on Accelerator 3 (Expanding community and civil society engagement). We feel it confirms a need for even greater engagement and inclusion far beyond the participants assembled. The consultation clearly demonstrates the enthusiasm of communities and civil society to contribute to the development and implementation of the Plan, and a desire in particular to translate global discussions into country-level activity working on broad health system strengthening efforts towards SDG 3.

We feel it is important that communities, civil society and other non-state actors have sight across the full breadth of the Plan. We would urge a special focus on input from stakeholders in low and middle-income countries as well as representatives from affected populations and marginalized groups.

To this end, we would like to ask the following:

- 1. That, before the release of the final Plan at UNGA in September, a timely, structured process is developed to allow community and civil society feedback at national, regional and global levels.**
- 2. That, following the release of the Plan in September, communities and civil society are included in early planning discussions around accountability and implementation of the Plan.**

It is our understanding that the Plan is currently scheduled to be finalized over the next six to eight weeks. This is an extremely tight timeframe, which makes the need for adequate consultation with key stakeholders particularly urgent. We are eager to discuss possible solutions, including the possibility of an online consultation. The Global Action Plan Civil Society Advisory Group stands ready to assist in any way which would be useful.

Again, we deeply appreciate your commitment to the Plan, and trust that you will recognize that our communication to you stems from a desire to make it as successful as possible, a call that aligns with your exhortation to come together and work towards realizing SDG3. We intend to raise the issues addressed in this letter during Global Action Plan events at the upcoming World Health Assembly, and suggest that a response from the World Health Organization Director-General, on behalf of the twelve signatory agencies, may be an expeditious way forward.

Should you wish to correspond further on this matter, please contact Loyce Pace (lp@globalhealth.org, +1 202 570 4230) or Justin Koonin (president@acon.org.au, +61 414 269 339).

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, in service to health for all.

Sincerely,

Professor Dure Samin Akram
Chair, Health Education & Literacy Program
Pakistan

Ms Marie Solange Ngoueko
President and Executive Director, Public Health
International Consulting Center
Cameroon

Dr Fabian Cataldo
Senior Advocacy Advisor, International Planned
Parenthood Federation
United Kingdom

Ms Angela Nguku
Executive Director, White Ribbon Alliance
Kenya

Dr Aminu Magashi Garba
Coordinator, Africa Health Budget Network
Nigeria

Mr Alan Jarandilla Nunez
Co-Director of Policy and Advocacy, International
Youth Alliance for Family Planning
Bolivia

Dr Justin Koonin
President, ACON (AIDS Council of New South
Wales)
Australia

Ms Loyce Pace
President and Executive Director
Global Health Council
United States of America

The above signatories constitute the Global Action Plan Civil Society Advisory Group. The Advisory Group was established in February 2019, with the assistance of the Global Action Plan secretariat, through an open expression of interest process. Secretariat support for the Advisory Group is provided by the UHC2030 Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) secretariat. Further details about the Advisory Group and its members can be found [here](#).