

July 5, 2017

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Tedros,

The Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the post of Director-General of the World Health Organization. You bring many admirable qualities to the role, including a new perspective and years of experience in practicing and administering public health. As the first African Director-General, it is fair to say that your election is a historic moment for WHO and the world.

In the midst of the many well-documented challenges that WHO faces, at the last World Health Assembly, Assistant Director-General Marie-Paule Kieny stated that WHO would cease pursuing much of the work of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination. Over a decade went into the proposal to develop a pooled fund to support R&D. Development has now ceased, unless another donor steps forward.

In this context, GHTC and our members ask for an articulation of your vision of how WHO will ensure that R&D is not lost amongst the many responsibilities you will undertake. How will you embed it as an integral part of the fight for global health and work to ensure that WHO effectively works to support the development of new health technologies that serve global health needs? Our organizations stand ready to work with you and your representatives to address these pressing issues with a sense of partnership, and look forward to understanding your priorities and commitments in the R&D space. Our coalition director, Jamie Bay Nishi (JNishi@ghtcoalition.org), would be happy to help facilitate such collaboration.

Sincerely,

