

## **GHTC statement on universal health coverage**

*Submitted for the April 29, 2019 Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing on Universal Health Coverage, convened by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in the lead up the UN high-level meeting on universal health coverage.*

As part of the SDGs, the world has committed to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030, but without the mobilization of resources and scientific expertise, we do not currently have the tools to reach these goals. The SDG3 targets include drastic reductions to maternal mortality, ending preventable deaths of newborns and children, and ending the epidemics of AIDs, TB, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases. These targets will not be achieved without research and development (R&D) to develop new health technologies— such as new and improved drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other critical innovations.

GHTC calls for greater public funding for R&D for universal access to health technologies. The public sector plays a critical role, not only in the development of new tools for poverty-related and neglected diseases where commercial market profits are limited, but also de-risking and incentivizing investment from the private sector.

In addition to increased public funding for R&D, GHTC also encourages all countries to increase their commitment to capacity-building, including strengthening clinical trial capacity, developing more robust laboratory systems, and enhancing regulatory frameworks. These capacities are not only good for enabling R&D but also serve to strengthen the health system overall, which is vital to achieving UHC.