

October 16, 2017

Dr. Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Simão:

The Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to the post of Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization. You bring many admirable qualities to the role, including years of experience working to advance access to innovative health technologies. Your appointment comes at a particularly opportune time as the world struggles to come to grips with ways to ensure access to medicines and health technologies while simultaneously promoting innovation.

In the midst of this global discussion, 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, though she made clear that the R&D observatory would remain online and accessible. Given the complex nature of global health research and development (R&D) efforts on a global scale, GHTC believes that a coordination and information-sharing facility such as the observatory could be transformative in reducing duplicated efforts and increasing efficiency.

GHTC and our members look forward to hearing more about your vision of how WHO will both support an enabling environment for global health research and development—including through future support for the observatory—as well as help chart a way forward in the very difficult debates surrounding access to medicines and health technologies. Our organizations stand ready to work with you and your representatives to address these critical issues with a sense of partnership.

We would welcome the opportunity to schedule a meeting or call with you in the coming months to share your priorities with our coalition membership. GHTC's lead for multilateral affairs, Matt Robinson (mrobinson@ghtcoalition.org) will reach out to your office in the near future to help make arrangements, but your staff should also feel free to contact him directly.

Congratulations again and we look forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,



Jamie Bay Nishi
Director
Global Health Technologies Coalition