Prioritising health in Africa-EU relations

To H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Charles Michel, President of the European Council

On December 9, you will meet to discuss a renewed comprehensive partnership between Europe and Africa. As civil society organisations and communities fighting for the right to health, we urge you to incorporate health as an integral part of the joint cooperation **by turning health systems strengthening into a pillar of the renewed EU-Africa partnership**.

The COVID-19 outbreak has exposed the systemic negligence of public health and pandemic preparedness globally. Despite being long championed by the EU, the AU and their individual member states, health systems have proven weak and unprepared for such a pandemic, due chiefly to chronic underfunding, under-prioritisation of health and human rights-related barriers.

Strong and resilient health systems require investments, cooperation, and solidarity. This has been demonstrated by the global HIV/AIDS response, which has also shown that health systems cannot be resilient or sustainable without strong community systems, strong and committed leadership and interventions grounded in human rights to ensure no one is left behind.

It is therefore paramount for the EU-AU partnership, in line with the Africa Health Strategy 2016-2030 and sub-sectoral policy frameworks such as the AU Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030, to prioritise the right to health for all and scale up investments in health systems strengthening, particularly community systems and domestic public financing. This new health pillar should notably support the implementation of the Abuja Declaration which calls on AU member states to allocate at least 15% of their annual budgets to the health sector. However, such investments can only be effective if communities are empowered and their expertise in linking marginalized groups to care is recognized. Removing barriers to health, strengthening multisectoral and inter-regional partnerships and supporting legal, regulatory and policy reforms are equally important. We also want to draw your attention to the need to guarantee equitable and affordable access for any COVID-19 vaccine, diagnostics and treatment developed with the contribution of the EU, including through support for manufacturing capacity in Africa.

Securing resources and leadership in global health is crucial to tackling current and future pandemics and putting us on the best track to address the immense economic and social impact of poor health. It is one of the most fundamental tasks at hand. We therefore hope that you will put your leadership behind a genuine partnership for health between our two Unions.
Yours sincerely,

Europe

1. Klaus Koch, Board of Directors
   **Action Against AIDS** – Germany
2. Andreas Gylling Åbølø, CEO
   **AIDS-Fondet** – Denmark
3. Arben Fetai, Head of EU office
   **Aidsfonds** – The Netherlands
4. Hakima Himmich, Présidente
   **Coalition PLUS** – Global
5. Marilena Bertini, Director
   **Comitato Collaborazione Medica** – Italy
6. Cecile Vernant, Head of EU office
   **Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung (DSW)** – Belgium
7. Sylvie Chantereau, Executive Director
   **Friends of the Global Fund Europe** – France
8. Elise Rodrigues, Director of Advocacy
   **Global Health Advocates** – France
9. Stefania Burbo, Focal Point
   **Global Health Italian Network** – Italy
10. Igor Medvid, Coordinator
    **HPLGBT** – Ukraine
11. Davide Olchini, Director of the Health Division
    **Humanity & Inclusion / Handicap International** – France
12. Dr Gidado Mustapha, Executive Director
    **KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation** – The Netherlands
13. Frank Mischo, Advocacy-Manager
    **Kindernothilfe** – Germany
14. Anita Bay Bundegaard, Director and EU representative
    **Save the Children Europe** – Belgium
15. Florence Thune, Directrice générale
    **Sidaction** – France

Africa

1. Desire Aggor, Executive Director
   **Agriculture-Environment and Infrastructure Development Foundation (AGRIDEF)** – Ghana
2. Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje, Chairperson
   **Afrihealth Optonet Association** – Nigeria
3. Samuel Yaw Agyemang-Badu, Founder and Executive Director
   **Alliance Against Malaria, Open Defecation and Indiscriminate Disposal of Waste (AAMODIDW)** – Ghana
4. Ford J. Bosco, Executive Director
   **Alliance for Sustainable Development Organization (ASDO)** – Rwanda
5. Joseph Wato, Directeur exécutif
   **Approche Participative, Développement et Santé de Proximité (APDSP)** – Cameroun
6. Ebibinde Amanga Rigobert,
   Coordonnateur
   **Association des Amis de Socaret 2(ADS2)** – Cameroun
7. Afoussatou Balogoun
   **Association Ibogaine et Réseau des Confessions Religieuses qui travaille pour la Santé de la Reproduction (RCRSCSR)** – Gabon
8. Odette Koffi, Directrice exécutive
   **Association pour la Promotion de la Santé de la femme, de la mère, de l’enfant et de la famille** – Côte d’Ivoire
9. Frédéric Ello, Directeur exécutif  
Association pour le Bien-être Communautaire (ABICOM) – Côte d’Ivoire

10. Ileryche Patouh Maloumbi  
Association Yemini Santé – République du Congo

11. Dosso Mouhamadou, Fondateur et président du conseil d’administration  
Association des Plateformes d’Entrepreneurs Etudiants de Côte d’Ivoire (APEE) – Côte d’Ivoire

12. Mary Karau, CEO  
AU-ECOSOCC Kenya National Chapter – Kenya

13. Tumainiel Mangi, Executive Director  
Child Watch – Tanzania

14. Isaac Ampomah, CEO  
Concern Health Education Project – Ghana

15. Tine Agernor, Programme Manager  
Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF) – Ghana

16. Amu Mudenda, National Advocacy Coordinator  
Faith Leader Advocacy for Malaria Elimination (FLAME) – Zambia

17. Jean Momo, Président et fondateur  
Fondation MOJE (œuvre humanitaire et de solidarité pour la promotion de la santé communautaire et de la prévention de la maladie) – Cameroun

18. Kristine Yakhama, Coordinator  
Good Health Community Programmes – Kenya

19. Francois Goumou  
Guinea health care and medical service (HCMS-GUINEA) – République de Guinée

20. Cecilia Senoo, Executive Director  
Hope for Future Generations – Ghana

21. Allan Ragi, Executive Director  
KANCO – Kenya

22. Roger Paul Kamugasha, Executive Director  
Kuboresha-Africa Limited – Uganda

23. Nafissa Tame, Directrice Générale  
Organisation des Femmes pour l’Islam sans Frontières (OFIF) – Cameroun

24. Harou Moussa, Assistant responsable programme et ressources humaines  
Organisation Nigérienne des Educateurs Novateurs (ONEN) – Niger

25. Rodolph Ngoua Minko, President and Founder  
Pentecostal Advocates for Socio-Economic Development (PENASED) – Cameroun

26. Marie Solange Ngoueko, Executive Director  
Public Health International Consulting Center (PHICC) – Cameroun

27. Oumou Diarra, Présidente  
Réseau Africain des personnes vivant avec le VIH – Mali

28. Umar Bolaji, Program Manager  
Save the Future of Children Initiative – Nigeria

29. Sandrine Ngwat, Executive Director  
Sustainable Impact for Development in Africa (SIDAF) – Cameroun

30. Rosemary Mburu, Executive Director  
WACI Health – Kenya

31. Rafa Valente Machava, Executive Director  
Women, Law and Development (MULEIDE) – Mozambique

32. Peter Owiti, Co-founder  
Wote Youth Development Projects – Kenya

33. Thierno Hamidou Balde, Directeur exécutif  
Zéro Pauvre Afrique (ZPA) – Guinée