

Brussels, 04 December 2020

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 Æbelø, CEO
AIDS-Fondet – Denmark
3. Arben Fetai, Head of EU office
Aidsfonds – The Netherlands
4. Hakima Himmich, Présidente
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5. Marilena Bertini, Director
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6. Cecile Vernant, Head of EU office
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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
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Africa

1. Desire Aggor, Executive Director
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2. Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje, Chairperson
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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
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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
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15. Tine Agernor, Programme Manager
Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF) – Nigeria
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
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19. Francois Goumou
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20. Cecilia Senoo, Executive Director
Hope for Future Generations – Ghana
21. Allan Ragi, Executive Director
KANCO – Kenya
22. Roger Paul Kamugasha, Executive Director
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23. Nafissa Tame, Directrice Générale
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24. Harou Moussa, Assistant responsable programme et ressources humaines
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25. Rodolph Ngoua Minko, President and Founder
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26. Marie Solange Ngoueko, Executive Director
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27. Oumou Diarra, Présidente
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28. Umar Bolaji, Program Manager
Save the Future of Children Initiative – Nigeria
29. Sandrine Ngwat, Executive Director
Sustainable Impact for Development in Africa (SIDAF) – Cameroon
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