

29 March 2016

Dear IHP+ Signatories,

The IHP+, as stated in its Global Compact signed by all of you, has as its original focus to accelerate achievement of the health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In September 2015 the UN General Assembly agreed to a new set of global goals, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, a global consensus on the paramount importance of strengthening health systems has emerged, not least as a result of the experience during the Ebola epidemic. The links between Health Systems Strengthening (HSS), Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and the health related SDGs (particularly SDG3) as well as health security have become increasingly clear. It is also evident that for the countries receiving outside assistance, adherence amongst all partners to the IHP+ principles remains key to achieving more effective HSS.

The question arises therefore about how best to harness this growing convergence to achieve greater progress towards HSS, UHC and the SDGs. The efforts spearheaded by the governments of Germany and Japan to improve coordination around HSS, moving faster towards UHC and enhance health security, have emphasized the need for more effective collaboration together with a reluctance to create yet another partnership. In this regard, the IHP+ has been suggested as a possible platform for a movement to take these issues forward, under the name of a “UHC alliance”.

Against this background, the IHP+ Steering Committee at its last meeting on 18 November 2015 recommended that a proposal should be developed to expand the IHP+ mandate to also cover coordination and advocacy aspects of support for HSS and UHC<sup>1</sup>. With the guidance of the WHO-WBG joint secretariat of the IHP+, and through consultations with partners, the core functions of a UHC 2030 Alliance are being actively developed. At this stage, the secretariat feels it would be timely to discuss the core functions and their resource implications with the IHP+ Steering Committee. As such, we are convening an IHP+ Steering Committee meeting on 8 April in Geneva hosted by the GFATM. A concept note will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

We look forward to sharing the recommendations of the Steering Committee with you and look forward to your active support moving forward.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurance of our highest consideration.



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<sup>1</sup> Reference is made to the IHP+ Steering Committee meeting 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Note for the Record:  
[http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/fileadmin/uploads/ihp/Documents/About\\_IHP\\_/mgt\\_arrangemts\\_docs/Steering\\_Committee\\_as\\_of\\_2014/SC\\_V/NfR-IHP5thSCfinal\\_EN.pdf](http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/fileadmin/uploads/ihp/Documents/About_IHP_/mgt_arrangemts_docs/Steering_Committee_as_of_2014/SC_V/NfR-IHP5thSCfinal_EN.pdf)