

## M8 Alliance Statement

### **Berlin Declaration – World Health Summit 2018: Health is a Driving Force for the Sustainable Development Goals**

Global Health is central to the Sustainable Development Goals. International organisations, governments and non-state actors are increasingly joining forces to shape a more sustainable future. In 2018, many high-level political gatherings have reinforced the importance of including health in their deliberations: At the United Nations two high-level meetings were dedicated to the challenges of non-communicable diseases and to tuberculosis, and the G20 continued the series of health ministers meetings with a focus on childhood obesity. All reinforce – as does the World Health Summit – that in order to *ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing of all people*, the integrated support of all other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is required. It also reinforces the importance of a strong commitment to multilateralism to support Global Health.

The M8 Alliance has taken into account that the World Health Organization (WHO) in its new General Programme of Work sounds a warning bell: Only if we step up our actions considerably will we be able to achieve the targets set in SDG3. In particular, we need to accelerate impact to achieve Universal Health Coverage and health equity, especially in view of the high level of migration, mobility of populations and the many emergency situations worldwide. We also recognize the warning voice of the IPPC report and the reliance of addressing climate change to support health. A range of new initiatives in the Global Health arena now focus on alignment and accountability – first and foremost the SDG Action Plan spearheaded by the WHO and its Director-General.

The M8 Alliance is honored that the first reiteration of this action plan is presented at the World Health Summit on the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

High-level participation in the World Health Summit by heads of government, ministers, foundations, academia, private sector and civil society reinforce the role of the World Health Summit as a meeting place that makes a difference. At a time when multilateralism is put into question, the World Health Summit sends a strong message that all stakeholders need to cooperate across nations and sectors to ensure a healthier and safer world. Such a holistic approach is strongly advocated by the M8 Alliance and the World Health Summit.

The rich discussions at the World Health Summit in 2018 lead us to highlight the need for action in six key areas of global health:

#### **1. Commitment to support the SDG 3 action plan for health and wellbeing**

The M8 Alliance and the World Health Summit will work as strong partners for international health organisations to support the implementation of the SDG Action Plan and its orientation to accelerate, align and account for actions in Global Health.

In close cooperation with global partners, the M8 Alliance will orient its work towards the Action Plan accelerators and provide the World Health Summit in 2019 as a platform to centrally focus on strategies for further implementation.

## **2. Commitment to support the global move to Universal Health Coverage**

The M8 Alliance has regularly called for investment in Universal Health Coverage as the corner stone of Global Health and SDG3. It notes that high-level political summits have reinforced this direction and underlines the importance of the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage in September 2019. An integrated approach to both infectious and non-communicable diseases, a focus on quality, patient safety, gender dimensions and patient participation are central components of Universal Health Coverage that the World Health Summit revisits regularly. The digital transformation provides unprecedented possibilities to leapfrog development. The commitment of the World Bank to invest in human capital – especially health and education – is a significant support for accelerating implementation.

The M8 Alliance calls on the next G7 and G20 summits – in France and Japan respectively – to prioritize investments in Universal Health Coverage and access to medicines in support of the implementation of the 2030 agenda. This includes investing in the digital transformation of health systems.

## **3. Commitment to a Global Health agenda that builds on the universal right to health**

All work of the M8 Alliance is grounded in the values of health equity, human rights, gender equity and global cooperation. The M8 Alliance has underlined that a Health in all Policies approach and a better understanding of the social, environmental and commercial determinants of health supports this orientation. The SDGs can only be implemented based on such an orientation, which is reflected in SDG16 with its focus on peaceful and inclusive societies. The World Health Summit reinforces the right to health of migrants and other vulnerable groups and has chosen a special focus on mental health and inequalities in cities.

The M8 Alliance calls on all stakeholders to work together in the spirit of SDG17 on partnerships, but also to engage for the achievement of SDG16 with its focus on peace, rule of law and accountable institutions.

## **4. Commitment to ensure Global Health Security**

The world continues to be challenged by serious disease outbreaks as well as the ongoing challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance. At present, the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo underlines the connection between outbreaks, weak governance and health institutions. This outbreak also shows the dangers emerging from outbreaks in war torn areas and underlines the interface between health emergencies and humanitarian and development action. The M8 Alliance recognizes the extraordinary work done by the WHO in this context but deplores the lack of commitment of member states to fully finance WHO emergencies activities, especially the contingency fund for health emergencies. We recognize the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and MSF – and join them in drawing attention to the lack of adherence to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2286.

The M8 Alliance calls on decision makers to strengthen their investment in health security – as an integral dimension of Universal Health Coverage – and the implementation of the International Health Regulations. We welcome the increasing effort made through innovation and research to be able to prevent outbreaks through vaccine development, improved diagnostics and treatment. The One Health approach continues to be a guide for intersectoral and interdisciplinary action.

## 5. Commitment to investing in science and technology

The partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Grand Challenges for the World Health Summit 2018 has highlighted the need to step up vaccine research and development. The M8 Alliance notes the progress achieved, for example in the development of an Ebola vaccine. This year's World Health Summit has also drawn attention to the need to invest in the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases or dementia. Affordable services and treatments will be critical especially for Low and Middle Income Countries.

The M8 Alliance reinforces its call to research and development organisations to support institution and capacity building in the Global South through strong cooperation networks. It also highlights the need for more implementation and social science research.

## 6. Commitment to address violence and sexual exploitation as a public health issue

Violence in its many forms is challenging societies and has great public health impact – this includes war, civil war, gun violence, and domestic violence. Sexual exploitation is gaining increasing attention and needs to be seen through a public health perspective, taking into account both the physical and mental trauma that is associated, especially when the victims are minors. Gender based violence and stigmatization of LGBTQ need to be addressed.

The M8 Alliance will continue to address violence as a threat to public health and calls on public health agencies to cooperate across society and with affected groups and victims.

## Respect and Dialogue: An international Initiative

Against the backdrop of growing violent extremism, populism, conflicts and suffering worldwide, the M8 Alliance calls for giving science a stronger voice and taking more responsibility. At this year's World Health Summit, the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) jointly with the M8 Alliance and other partner organizations has launched the initiative "Respect and Dialogue" in order to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and contribute to an open, free, peaceful, forward-looking culture of discussion. The common initiative of "Respect and Dialogue" will join forces with other organizations that bear witness to peaceful intercultural dialogue and that consider it part of their mission to actively drive this dialogue today and in the future.

***The M8 Alliance renews its full commitment to support goal 3 of the SDGs which aims to: "Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages." We call on heads of state and government to invest in people and to ensure that no one is left behind.***

***The M8 Alliance commits to the transformative approach of the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs. We call on politicians to make the political choice for health.***

## What is the World Health Summit?

The World Health Summit is the annual conference of its Think Tank, the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities around the world and National Academies of Medicine and Sciences within the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP). It is a worldwide open collaboration of a unique academic network under the patronage of the German Chancellor, the President of the French Republic and the President of the European Commission. The vision of the World Health Summit is to improve health all over the planet, catalyzing that process through collaboration and open dialogue, and steering tomorrow's agenda to improve research, education, healthcare, and policy outcomes.

The World Health Summits mission is to bring together researchers, physicians, key government officials, and representatives from industry – as well as from NGOs and healthcare systems all over the world – to address the most pressing issues facing every facet of healthcare and medicine in the upcoming decade and beyond.

## What is the M8 Alliance?

The M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centres, Universities and National Academies is a collaboration between academic institutions committed to improving global health. Working together with political and economic decision-makers, its primary goal is to develop science-based solutions to health challenges all over the world. The M8 Alliance includes the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) the global network of 130 science, engineering and medical academies providing independent expert advice on scientific, technological and health issues.

This international network is the outstanding academic foundation upon which the World Health Summit – the pre-eminent independent annual forum for healthcare dialogue – is built. It functions as a permanent platform for framing the future considerations of global medical developments and health challenges in an equitable fashion.

The M8 Alliance promotes both “bench-to-bedside” translation of research and the transformation of current medical care approaches to treating the ill, preventing disease and improving health in a holistic approach. It is seeking to accomplish this through the creation of a healthcare system focused on the effective prevention of diseases, as well as the adaptation of health-related solutions to rapidly changing living conditions through research in priority areas like shifting demographics, urbanization and climate.

World Health Summit: [www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org)

InterAcademy Partnership (IAP): [www.interacademies.org](http://www.interacademies.org)