



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT: HEALTH METRICS NETWORK

The world is getting more complex, and so are our public health challenges. Due to important investments in health data collection we have a much better understanding of global health problems today compared to just 10 years ago. However, many of the investments have been fragmented and uncoordinated.

Today, there is still a big gap between what we know and what we need to know to effectively combat disease and improve health, especially in middle- and low-income countries. Developing countries have to deal with competing and often conflicting demands for health statistics in a context of fragile and poorly resourced health information systems. In the absence of sound health information, the limited resources available for meeting the health needs of people cannot be used most effectively.

We have come together as developing countries, donor agencies, global health initiatives, public health institutions, and statistical organizations united by a common understanding of the need to strengthen health information systems as a core component of health systems development. We firmly believe in the need to promote the adequate management and use of health information as part of a culture of evidence-based policy making and accountability.

We have established the Health Metrics Network as a partnership that will work to increase the availability and use of timely and reliable health information in developing countries and globally. Through this partnership we will support the use of a common framework and guidelines for assessing and strengthening health information systems, and by doing so, contribute to the development of new knowledge. We have agreed to better coordinate and align our investments in the development of health information systems in accordance with the broader development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Good data, quality reporting and tracking, thoughtful analysis and consistent health information systems enable decision makers – locally and globally – to make informed decisions on disease control and health development. Better health information means better decision making – and that means better health for all people around the world.

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