

Leveraging Innovation and Investing for a Resilient Future

Convening policy makers, innovators and investors on the margins of the WHA 2023

I. Background

The COVID pandemic has underscored the fragility of health systems around the world and highlighted the critical importance of building resilience. The world needs to leverage the potential of innovation in building resilient systems for health and global health security. This is particularly urgent in addressing the diverse, ongoing and emerging challenges –

- we are entering into a time of **multiple pandemics** as the world continues to cope with COVID-19, Ebola, HIV, TB, Malaria, Hepatitis;
- non-communicable diseases including heart diseases, stroke, the enormous mental health challenges faced globally in the post COVID era, surging diabetes, cancers – **NCDs account for 70%** of all deaths globally;
- the rapidly rising challenges of climate change and health;
- equity in healthcare access – still one out of two people don't have access to essential healthcare and 100 million people are annually pushed into extreme poverty with over **half a billion** pushed into extreme poverty during the COVID-19 crisis;
- special challenges faced by **women** in their access to affordable, and safe healthcare services.

A strong and functioning innovation ecosystem along with novel financing models that leverage public and private investments in true partnership are critical for countries to address the current challenges and to fast-track progress towards the SDG3 and SDG17 targets. In order to do this, there is need for dialogue across healthcare leaders and policy makers (including Ministers of health), communities, innovators, the private sector and



investors. A radical new approach to healthcare will require not only better understanding of the challenges faced by the healthcare providers in country but also recognition of the role that innovation and technology can play to overcome some of the challenges and amplify the limited capacities available to better deploy services. It is also important to bring the investors into the conversation from the beginning to ensure that investments follow where there is a good match between needs, solutions and potential market.

II. World Health Assembly as an opportunity

The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.¹

¹ <https://www.who.int/about/governance/world-health-assembly>

Over the last four years, the Health Innovation Exchange has convened key stakeholders on the margins of the WHA with tangible outcomes. HIEx has facilitated dialogue and collaboration between the public and private sector in enabling the health innovation and investment ecosystem. HIEx has initiated and led several cross sectoral collaborations across SDGs (SDG 3, 5, 7) to maximise sustainability and impact. The World Health Assembly 2023 will take place in Geneva between 21–30 May 2023. On the margins of WHA² 2023, the Health Innovation Exchange (HIEx) will host its annual convening to facilitate a true dialogue and collaboration between the key stakeholders in the health ecosystem. This will include high level thematic panels, Roundtables, facilitated dialogues on key issues and the annual health innovation marketplace.

III. Scaling Innovation for Resilient Health

The Health Innovation Exchange (HIEx) in collaboration with key partners will host a series of consultations on leveraging innovations and investments for resilient health systems. The events planned for 2023 include:

1. **Investing for scale and impact:** The HIEx Investor Coalition, a group of over 50 investors representing DFIs, VCs, Philanthropies, PE funds and donors committed to investing in scaling access to healthcare in LMICs will come together to engage with key stakeholders from the public and private sector on investing in resilient systems for health. The 90-minute Roundtable session will be by invitation only and will convene in addition to the investors, Ministers of health from key countries and senior representatives from the health sector. The Roundtable will focus on new models of financing including blended models and bring key voices from DFIs, private capital and philanthropic capital alongside Ministers and key health leaders. **Date and time:** 23 May, 18.00-19.30 to be followed by a reception **Venue:** Hotel Intercontinental, Geneva **Participation:** Closed session and by invitation only – max capacity 50.



2. **Health Innovation Marketplace:** The annual HIEx Innovation Marketplace will showcase 20 selected innovations that are transformative for global health. The innovators will be identified through a nomination process and will be selected by an independent review committee. A focus of this year's marketplace will be on women led health enterprises and scaling access to healthcare for women. The Marketplace provides an opportunity for the delegations of country representatives to meet with innovators to understand potential solutions that respond to their challenges. We also facilitate innovator pitches to key investors and funders. **Date and time:** 24 May, 8.00-15.00 **Venue:** Hotel Intercontinental, Geneva **Participation:** Session open to WHA delegations and for participants.



² The events hosted by HIEx are independent of WHA and are not part of the official programme of the WHA

3. **Through the looking glass- *What innovations and technologies are shaping the future of healthcare?***

This session will bring three global thought leaders/innovators to share their insights on the emerging technologies and trends in healthcare and its potential for scaling access to healthcare globally including in emerging markets. The panel will have three ministers of health/ policy makers as discussants to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by these emerging trends and the implications for policies and investments.

Date and time: Breakfast meeting, 24 May, 8.00-9.30

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental, Geneva **Participation:**

Session open to WHA delegations – all other participants can access session through registration on a first come first served basis max 80 participants in room– session will be streamed online.



4. **Equity on the frontlines: Expanding Access through investing in female health entrepreneurs:**

Over 70% of the frontline global health workforce is female. It's clear that investing in female health entrepreneurs is critical to scaling access to healthcare. HIEx has launched the Women in Innovation Fund (WiNFUND) in collaboration with Reckitt, the Kofi Annan Foundation, Ecobank Foundation and Tokenproof to scale access to financing and acceleration support for female health entrepreneurs in Africa. This session will showcase the innovators from WiNFUND and facilitate a dialogue between innovators, investors and policy makers on leveraging women entrepreneurs for scaling access to healthcare and equity in the frontline for sustainable healthcare. **Date and time:**

24 May, 10.00-11.00 **Venue:** Hotel Intercontinental,

Geneva **Participation:** Session open to WHA delegations – all other participants can access session through registration on a first come first served basis max 80 participants– session will be streamed online.



5. **Going Viral: partnerships for resilient health systems:** This session will bring together Ministers of health (India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria tbc), a high level leader from the technology sector, one investor from a DFI and one from private capital and a



private sector leader to better understand the challenges that countries face in scaling access to healthcare, potential partnerships that can help address and overcome these challenges and enable introduction and integration of innovations into the public health system for improved quality and access to healthcare. It will also focus on access to investments for scaling innovations and explore how market investors can work better with philanthropic capital in co-investing for scaling

innovations to address some of the key challenges faced by countries. **Date and time:** 24 May, 12.30-14.00 **Venue:** Hotel Intercontinental, Geneva **Participation:** Session

open to WHA delegations – all other participants can access session through registration on a first come first served basis max 80 participants– session will be streamed online.

6. **Leadership insights** : HIEEx will host a small number of closed sessions that bring together key ministers of health, leaders from the private sector and innovators on key thematic. These closed sessions will bring together groups of senior leaders from the public and private sectors on specific themes of innovation and investment based on the demands identified from countries. These will be by invitation only and will not exceed 12 participants in total per session. The objective of the session is to engage in an open and insightful discussion on issues that are often difficult to undertake in a large group. These discussions will follow Chatham House rules. **Venue:** Campus Biotech, Geneva/ Hotel Intercontinental, Geneva **Date:** 22-25 May 2023. **Schedule:** Meetings are being scheduled based on areas identified by select countries and partners – the agenda is led by the countries. **Participation:** by invitation only max 10 in room.

IV. About HIEEx

The HIEEx is a neutral multi-layered platform, that connects countries and health tech solutions, through identifying country-specific health priorities and challenges, enabling support for high-potential innovations to be taken to scale for improved access to more equitable health access leading to better outcomes. HIEEx facilitates private-public partnerships, bringing policymakers, innovators and investors together to leverage both innovations and investments to improve the quality of lives around the world through a health systems-based approach, especially for the most vulnerable communities worldwide-driving maximum impact.

V. Partnership Opportunity:

HIEEx is inviting mission aligned partners to cocreate and collaborate in the organization of these important consultations at the WHA in 2023. Partners can contribute through

- **Cocreation:** Bring your expertise, insights and experience to build the sessions.
- **Invest:** HIEEx is a non-profit and does not have its own resources to organize these events. HIEEx is seeking funding towards the organization of these events. If you are committed to these issues and would like to partner by funding the event costs, it will greatly help us. For corporate sponsorship, see details below.
- **Promote:** Bring your networks and influence to promote the event to a key audience that can help shape policy and investments in the areas of focus.
- **Contribute:** You can contribute to the session design. Who are the key actors that you would like to see on the panels? Who should be included in the invitation to attend? What are the key questions you would like to see answered? What is the one action that you would like to recommend?
- **Corporate sponsorship:** For corporate sponsors who support at least US\$30,000 in funding, we offer the following:
 - Branding and logo as part of our communications on the events including the events page on our website, social media posts, impact videos and reports etc.
 - Recognition of the sponsorship at venue including standees, sponsor logo on session background and zoom broadcasts etc.

- Acknowledgement of support in event publications, event reports, videos etc.
- Representatives will have a dedicated sponsor table at the meeting and can invite up to 6 participants from their networks to the event including for one of the high-level events (additional participation and more than one event can be considered subject to availability).
- Showcase innovations at the Innovation Marketplace
- **Marquee Sponsorship:** For corporate sponsors providing funding of US50000, in addition to the above, will have a keynote address and HIEEx will help facilitate bilateral meetings with key partners attending the events.
- **Collaborator:** For non-corporate/ non-profit sponsors providing funding of US15000 and above, will receive the benefits similar to the Corporate Sponsorship package.

