

## Uniting Efforts for Innovation, Access and Delivery: A Global Dialogue

**Location:** Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

**Date:** January 30 and 31, 2019

### Context

In September 2015, United Nations (UN) Member States adopted the comprehensive people-centered 2030 Agenda. This ambitious undertaking encompasses a set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, including SDG 3, “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.” The 2030 Agenda also highlights the need for synergies between the innovation of new health technologies – in this case defined to include medicines, diagnostics and vaccines – and enabling access to these health technologies in order to build on efforts of all countries to attain universal health coverage.<sup>1</sup>

Developing countries are facing a variety of health challenges and needs, including multiple infectious diseases, whose impact is amplified by demographic, epidemiological and climate changes and a growing burden of non-communicable diseases. Although significant advances have been made in both innovation and expanding access to health technologies, critical gaps exist and many are being left behind in accessing the important technologies and knowledge generated over the last decades. For example, tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the key killers in developing countries. In 2017, there was estimated 10.4 million new TB cases, and TB remained one of the top ten causes of death worldwide.<sup>2</sup> TB treatment has become complex with the emergence of multidrug resistance (MDR). In 2017, 3.5% of new TB cases and 18% of previous ones had MDR/RR-TB.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SDG targets of direct relevance to the project include: 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the fullest the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

<sup>2</sup> Global Tuberculosis Report (WHO, 2018): [http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global\\_report/en/](http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

Since 2013, thanks to the generous support of the Government of Japan, the [Global Health Innovative Technology Fund](#) (GHIT Fund) and the UNDP-led [Access and Delivery Partnership \(ADP\)](#) have been working on two sides of the same coin: driving health technology innovation for TB, malaria, NTDs and other neglected diseases on the one hand, and strengthening health systems to promote access and delivery, on the other. The prospect of new health technologies emerging from the GHIT Fund's portfolio of R&D investments between 2018 and 2023 provides an opportunity for even stronger collaboration between the Government of Japan, the GHIT Fund and ADP. In order to systematically address bottlenecks that impede the efficient uptake of new health technologies and deepen cooperation in this area, Government of Japan, ADP and GHIT will work together to establish and contribute to national, regional and global platforms for technology delivery preparedness.

### **Uniting Efforts for Innovation, Access and Delivery: A Global Dialogue**

Against this background and as part of the scale-up phase of this ongoing collaboration, the Government of Japan, the GHIT Fund and ADP are uniting their efforts to convene a platform for global dialogues to explore opportunities for deeper collaboration between key biomedical R&D funders, product development partnerships (PDPs), research institutes and access stakeholders (defined in this context to be entities involved in the selection, regulation, pricing, procurement and delivery of health technologies) focusing on diseases that predominantly affect developing countries, including TB, malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

The purpose of this first meeting is to initiate a global dialogue between key stakeholders that are needed to accelerate both innovation, access and delivery of essential health technologies, providing an opportunity for sharing of experiences and knowledge, and exploring opportunities for future collaboration and deeper dialogues.

The Global Dialogue will be taking place in Bangkok in January 2019. The event will begin with a formal evening reception on Wednesday, 30 January and will be followed by a full-day working meeting on Thursday, 31 January 2019.

### **Participants and Expected Outcomes**

The meeting will be by invitation only. Participants are expected to include representatives from:

- Select R&D funders, PDPs and research institutions, as well as access and delivery stakeholders working on or interested in diseases that predominantly affect LMICs
- Government representatives from LMICs, including procurement and regulatory authorities within Ministries of Health, Ministries of Science and Technology and research institutes
- Select patients, civil society, academics, private sector representatives, experts and thought and opinion leaders

This meeting and initiative aims to be useful to a broad variety of stakeholders who usually do not have pre-established forums for cross-sectoral dialogue and may be a useful forum for the following purposes:

- For R&D funders, the dialogue could increase visibility of R&D investments and priorities, increase return on investment by facilitating collaboration and efficiency, increase dissemination of knowledge and ability to showcase success and improve ability to evaluate impact on the R&D investments.
- For PDPs, the dialogue could help identify best practices to reduce cost and to increase efficiencies in biomedical research and development processes strategies to facilitate launch and adoption of resulting health technologies at the country level, as well as highlight potential common challenges and opportunities to overcome.
- For access stakeholders, the dialogue could help increase visibility of innovation, access and delivery needs at country level among R&D funders and innovators, as well as identify interventions and strategies to ensure health technologies will be developed and made available as needed.

**Expected outcomes** of the meeting include:

1. The initiation of a global dialogue to facilitate sharing and identification of experiences, best practices and challenges;
2. Identification of specific areas and opportunities for potential future dialogue, collaboration and partnerships to increase or leverage assets, capabilities and expertise; as well as
3. Progress in the discussion of key areas to systematically address bottlenecks in order to accelerate both innovation and access and delivery of essential health technologies in LMICs.