Dear Participants,

The Government of Japan, the UNDP-led Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP) and the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund) are pleased to host the Second Global Dialogue of Uniting Efforts for Innovation, Access and Delivery from 2-3 February 2020, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), still have a devastating impact in many parts of the world and millions are being left behind without access to urgently needed health technologies. Over the past several decades, the world has seen important progress in the innovation, access and delivery of health technologies for some of these diseases, but the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people continue to face unique health challenges.

If we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, we urgently need to address such challenges and ensure that new tools are developed and delivered to those who need them most. To do this, stakeholders across sectors must come together to chart a new path forward.

In January 2019, the Government of Japan, ADP and the GHIT Fund responded to this challenge by launching Uniting Efforts for Innovation, Access and Delivery. This global platform provides a unique forum for dialogue and fosters collaboration across the range of stakeholders involved in the innovation, access and delivery of health technologies for neglected diseases.

In 2019, we worked with experts and partners from around the world to identify priorities for this platform, starting with two key issues: how to better anticipate and plan for access and delivery, early on the research & development phases of new health technologies; and how to develop innovative and sustainable financing so that health technologies can reach communities that need them most.

To advance these priorities, this global platform convened over 50 experts from around the world at two technical meetings in September 2019, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. In addition to convening follow-up dialogues and collaboration, meeting participants recommended that we focus on developing practical tools and guidance.

We are now working together with key experts and partners to develop the tools and guidance which identify good practices and opportunities along the innovation-delivery pipeline, so that partners and key stakeholders can better set priorities, policies and strategies to improve access and delivery of health technologies.
These tools include: a review of access policies and practices within the research and development of new health technologies; a landscape analysis to map actors, mechanisms and needs in funding for access and delivery of neglected disease interventions; and a guidance note to support partners in making strong investment cases for neglected diseases.

At the Second Global Dialogue, we are looking forward to sharing the work that has been done during 2019 and deepening the learning and collaboration among partners and experts. We will be presenting progress on our work to-date so that participants can provide input and shape the tools and guidance. Additionally, the dialogue will be a space for participants to share relevant initiatives and strategies, facilitating the cross-pollination of ideas from different sectors and ensuring that partner efforts are connected and synergistic.

We are confident that by working together in new ways, we can accelerate progress and better address persistent inequalities in health and transform the way that health technologies are developed, financed and delivered. We can work differently and more strategically, reducing siloes and creating more space for collaboration and learning from one another.

We must continue to build on this inclusive platform to ensure that lifesaving health technologies reach those who need them most. Only then can we achieve universal health coverage and deliver on the commitments embodied in SDG3 and the 2030 Agenda.

We look forward to working with you all in Bangkok.

Sumi Manabu, Director of Global Health Policy Division, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mandeep Dhaliwal, Director, UNDP HIV, Health and Development Group
Catherine Ohura, CEO, GHIT Fund