Dear Dr. Ibbotson,

I am writing to state UNITAR’s commitment towards the proposed Global Surgery Foundation (GSF) and its goal to ensure that surgical, obstetrical, and anaesthesia care is accessible, safe, timely, and affordable.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for the important role you are playing as UNITAR’s Senior Advisor on Health and Development. Your inputs and guidance greatly aid our Institute in pursuing its goal to strengthen national and local capacity to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages. Particularly, we thank you for the help you are giving us to design our new Programme on Health and Development and its training platforms.

Surgical, obstetrical and anaesthesia care needs to be strengthened in the developing world and must be given priority in global health efforts as they play an indispensable role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). We believe there is an urgent need to build capacity to improve surgical care systems globally and we welcome GSF’s commitment to increase surgical capacity in those countries which need the most assistance. More specifically, we appreciate that GSF will work alongside national Ministry of Health stakeholders from low and middle-income countries (LMIC) to develop National Surgical, Obstetrical and Anaesthesia Programs (NSOAPs) and to support their implementation.

In addition, we agree with your vision that UHC and other important health related objectives outlined in the SDGs are not achievable without ensuring that surgical, obstetrical and anaesthesia care is accessible, safe, timely and affordable. UNITAR is glad to work with GSF on this important and timely issue and will remain committed to support capacity building in this realm, by developing and publishing learning materials, implementing training activities, facilitating partnerships, and increasing awareness and outreach.

With kind regards,

Mr. Nikhil Seth
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General
UNITAR Executive Director

Dr. Geoff Ibbotson
Executive Director
Global Surgery Foundation
Chemin des Mines 9
1202 Genève, Switzerland