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29 August 2025

Dr Henning Gädeke Chair of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Governing Board
c/o Dr Michael Makanga Executive Director Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Executive Director
Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
56 – 60 Avenue de la Toison d'Or
1060 Brussels
Belgium

Letter of endorsement

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of The Aurum Institute NPC, Aurum Campus, 33 Wrench Road, Isando, Johannesburg, South Africa and in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) No 2085/2021 of 19th November 2021 establishing the joint undertakings under Horizon Europe and specifically Article 9 therein, I hereby submit an application to become a contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (Global Health EDCTP3 JU). Our contribution relates to the call for proposals by EDCTP3 - HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2025-04-two-stage- Global collaboration action for the development of vaccines for reducing the disease burden of Tuberculosis in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Aurum Institute is a leading African healthcare and research organization with over 25 years of experience in tackling global health issues, notably tuberculosis (TB) and HIV. It has evaluated a wide array of diagnostic tools, including large cluster randomised trials enrolling thousands of participants across multiple sites in South Africa and other high TB burden countries. Aurum's work spans clinical research, implementation science, health systems strengthening, and capacity building. Aurum is committed to reducing the health, social, and economic burdens of infectious diseases particularly in sub-Saharan Africa by advancing the development and uptake of new and improved interventions. Through its TB implementation research portfolio, including evaluation of novel diagnostics, Aurum contributes to innovative solutions targeting high-burden diseases. It also supports health security by addressing antimicrobial resistance, strengthening regulatory compliance, and enhancing local and regional capacities to respond to infectious disease outbreaks. Aurum combines scientific excellence with strong partnerships and operational expertise to generate evidence that informs policy and practice, fostering sustainable health improvements.

The SWAB-IMPACT project: This project proposal responds to the call for proposals by EDCTP3 - HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2025-04-two-stage Global collaboration action for the development of vaccines for reducing the disease burden of Tuberculosis in sub-Saharan Africa.

SWAB-IMPACT project aims to: 1) generate first-ever evidence on the effectiveness, feasibility and cost-effectiveness of implementing swab-based molecular TB diagnosis using a low-cost point-of-care platform at primary care clinics in high burden settings; 2) Evaluate whether this potential

transformative and innovative approach can lead to better access to diagnosis, earlier diagnosis and thus increase treatment, with the potential to impact TB control.

Within the consortium, Professor Violet Chihota as the scientific leadership will oversee coordination and management of the project and the conduct of the trial activities, including managing regulatory submissions and compliance for South Africa and support Zambia. At Aurum Prof Chihota will be supported by other investigators on this grant, Prof Salome Charalambous, Dr Noriah Maraba and Mr Thobani Ntshiqha. The team has been working together on several implementation science and clinical research projects over the years. We are proud of this dynamic and energetic team and the work that they have accomplished, and we wholeheartedly support their application. This proposal also marks the beginning of a new collaboration between Aurum Institute, University of Heidelberg and the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ).

We enjoy a longstanding partnership with the South African National Department of Health and are instrumental at policy level with intimate involvement in both the South African HIV Think Tank and the TB Think Tank. We believe that the relationship that we have with our stakeholders will enable the implementation of the project.

Our organisation will provide the necessary infrastructure, capability, human resources and legal structures to meet the requirements of the grant/cooperative agreement if awarded. Our organisation will provide the necessary infrastructure and resources to Prof Chihota and her team of investigators to pursue the activities proposed in the abovementioned project proposal, subject to funding being awarded for this project, for the entire duration of this project. We estimate that the co-funding contribution from Aurum will be approximately €429 775 as detailed below.

Description	Value	Y0	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4
Aurum marketing	€ 12 836	€ -	€ 3 209	€ 3 209	€ 3 209	€ 3 209
Training/Capacity building	€ 2 336	€-	€ 584	€ 584	€ 584	€ 584
Financial Mentorship - Bandim	€ 22 192	€-	€ 5 548	€ 5 548	€ 5 548	€ 5 548
Equipment fair value estimates	€ 271 941	€ 271 941				
Vehicles	€ 78 289	€ 78 289				
Health and Safety	€ 1 476		€ 369	€ 369	€ 369	€ 369
EDCTP proposal prep (Part A&B)	€ 40 705	€ 40 705				
Total	€ 429 775	€ 390 935	€ 9 710	€ 9 710	€ 9 710	€ 9 710

We confirm the following:

1. We will comply with the Horizon Europe Regulation (EU) No 2021/695; Council Regulation (EU) No 2085/2021 establishing the joint undertakings under Horizon Europe; the Model Grant Agreement for Horizon Europe and applicable Global Health EDCTP3 JU rules, including the relevant work programmes, and particularly the call conditions therein.
2. We also undertake to keep as confidential all information received in the context of our involvement as a contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 JU, in accordance with the required obligations. This confidentiality obligation applies in particular but is not limited to the areas of Global Health EDCTP3 JU call topic preparation and publication, proposal submission and evaluation, and consortium formation. We further understand that this obligation strictly prohibits the release of confidential information to any legal entities save where specifically authorised by Global Health EDCTP3 JU. Internal dissemination of information within our organisation will be done on the basis of the “need-to-know” principle.
3. We are confident of our ability to fulfil the above commitments and further confirm our understanding that the Global Health EDCTP3 JU will allocate resources to the above topic based on these commitments.

4. The value of our contribution will be based on costs calculated in accordance with Article 6 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.
5. We accept that additional modalities regarding the provision of our contribution may be defined in subsequent agreements or documents, such as a funding agreement and topic text.

Your kind consideration of the abovementioned project proposal is appreciated. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



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The Aurum Institute NPC
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