

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

14 August 2025

Letter of endorsement

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Science and Innovation Directorate of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), Haile Garment, Lafto Square, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 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).

Africa CDC, a specialized public health agency of the African Union, is committed to strengthening Africa's capacity for disease prevention, surveillance, and response while fostering resilient health systems and research innovation. Africa CDC shares common objectives with the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (EDCTP3 JU), particularly in advancing clinical research capacity, promoting collaborative partnerships, and enhancing preparedness for infectious disease threats. Both organizations prioritize the development of diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics relevant to Africa's needs, with a strong focus on sustainable research infrastructure and health sovereignty.

Africa CDC's contribution to this initiative is both strategic and operational, with a focus on strengthening epidemic and pandemic research preparedness and response systems across Africa. Our involvement is structured as an In-Kind Operational Contribution (IKOP), supporting a 48-month programme aligned with GH EDCTP3 JU priorities. This initiative presents a significant added value by generating evidence to inform tailored capacity-building, fostering equitable partnerships, and improving coordination for health emergency preparedness in Africa.

The proposed initiative is aligned with the objectives outlined under the topic "Global collaborative action for strengthening the Regional Networks of Excellence and Epidemic Preparedness Consortia" with focus on supporting research preparedness and response to infectious disease outbreaks in sub-Saharan Africa through coordinated, multisectoral collaboration. Africa CDC's engagement directly supports the development of robust health

research ecosystems and regional coordination mechanisms, critical to the goals of the GH EDCTP3 JU.

Africa CDC will lead Work Package 3 (WP3): *Comprehensive Needs Assessment*, which will be implemented during Months 1–12. This foundational work package will assess institutional and national system-level gaps and capacities across 7 countries and over 40 research sites per country. The deliverables include an adapted methodology guide (D3.1) and a synthesis report (D3.2) that will inform interventions across WP4-5 (Epidemic Preparedness and Response), WP6 (Clinical trials research capacity building), WP9-10 (Ethics, Regulatory and Pharmacovigilance Capacity Building), WP11 (Laboratory Infrastructure Strengthening), and WP11 (Networking, Policy Engagement, and Knowledge Translation).

We will also contribute as co-leads or technical partners in the above-mentioned work packages.

We estimate the total value of Africa CDC's contribution to be approximately EUR 1,240,000 accounted for the in-kind contribution (including meeting facilities, laboratory facilities, databases, emergency operation center, office facilities).

Africa CDC remains committed to supporting this initiative in line with our mission to strengthen Africa's health systems and research capacity. We are confident this collaboration will contribute to advancing the objectives of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking and sustainable health research ecosystems across the continent.

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 in particular the call conditions therein.
2. We will keep all information received in the context of our involvement as contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 JU confidential. 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.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by:
 Sep 27 2023 | 00:01 PDT
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Dr Mosoka P. Fallah
Ag. Director,
Center for Science and Innovation, Africa CDC
