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September 29, 2025

Dr. 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

Dear Dr Gädeke and Dr. Makanga,

Letter of endorsement

**RE: Participation in the project β IOSTATISTICS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING HUBS
IN WEST AFRICA – (β ETA-HUBS) submitted under the HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2025-
02-two-stage (HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2025-02-two-stage call)**

On behalf of Bayero University Kano (BUK) based at Gwarzo Road, Kano, 700231, Kano, Nigeria 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).

The Department of Community Medicine at BUK is a regional leader in public health contributing to teaching, training, capacity building and scientific research. The department

contributes to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching within the College of Health Sciences and hosts three academic Masters programmes (MSc) – Public Health, Global health and Policy, and Health Research Ethics and a professional Masters in Public Health (MPH). Overall, we train over 400 graduates across the programs annually. The department is also actively involved in research and also hosts a PhD program in Public Health. The department has a close working relationship with the Country's Centre for Disease Control and has provided technical lead for outbreak investigations and control over the years.

The department has an excellent track-record in collaborating with international stakeholders. More recently, the department has been recipient of a training grant from NIH Fogarty International Center (<https://www.fic.nih.gov/Grants/Search/Pages/hiv-research-training-d43tw011544.aspx>) in partnership with Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). The grant supports masters fellows to build research capacity on implementation research focused on HIV and non-communicable diseases. The grant initially targeted to train 10 fellows and has been extended to add 6 Masters fellows and 6 PhD fellows.

We are pleased to support this project that continues to build on our existing programs and leverages our current academic and research infrastructure. The lead applicant on the call from BUK, Dr Fatima Tsiga-Ahmed, is an Epidemiologist and a Associate Professor of Community Medicine (BUK) with extensive experience in multi-institutional capacity-building programmes. Prior to her current appointment, she was the postgraduate training coordinator for six years (2019-2024). She is currently the module lead for epidemiology and the curriculum coordinator for the academic Masters within the department as well as the lead for faculty development. Across the NIH grants, Dr Fatima Tsiga-Ahmed supports project and grant management to provide timely deliverables and outputs. We are pleased that Dr Fatima Tsiga-Ahmed (and BUK) will provide the scientific leadership for the project and BUK remains fully committed to supporting Dr Fatima Tsiga-Ahmed and the β ETA-Hubs project.

It is particularly pleasing that BUK (Dr Fatima Tsiga-Ahmed) has taken the leadership role in this grant application and is the scientific lead for β ETA-Hubs. BUK will lead a total of 6 work packages on scientific leadership (WPs 2-5), stakeholder mapping (WP 6), and coursework, supervision and dissertation projects (WP 11). The specific activities to be undertaken as part of these work packages includes strategic planning, team formation, academic planning and rigour, risk mitigation, faculty training, quality assurance, stakeholder market mapping and engagement, deliver coursework and supervise student placement and dissertation. In addition, BUK will also support activities in other work packages and work synergistically with the two esteemed partners in the call: University of Oxford and University of Liberia.

We remain fully committed to the project and are providing a substantial in-kind contribution to ensure the success of the project. We are committing at least 5% in-kind FTE across 9 costed BUK staffs on the call. This is estimated to be at least 3 weeks per costed staffs per year over the duration of 4 years. We estimate the total financial value of this contribution to be EUR 64,800.00, amounting to 27 person-months of in-kind contribution. Additional intangible in-kind contributions which we haven't estimated include: providing educational infrastructure such as teaching room and library space, text-books, and library computers for the proposed new streams of MSc. **The overall in-kind contribution is estimated to be at least 20% of the requested budget for BUK.**

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.

βETA-Hubs is a vital initiative and BUK is proud to be scientific lead for the project. BUK will provide overall scientific leadership for the project and work closely with the two esteemed partners, University of Oxford and University of Liberia, to develop core quantitative skillsets and scientific training in the country and the region to develop next generation African statisticians/epidemiologists and scientists.

Bayero University Kano and Community Medicine Department are fully supportive of the application and we will support this project by facilitating all activities and by providing in-kind contributions listed. Our department is committed to working with EDCTP Association and the contributing partners to create curricula for bespoke and advanced epidemiology and statistics streams within our current MScPH and support fellows to conduct impactful research that will support contextual policies. We look forward to collaborating with partners across countries and institutions to implement the deliver successfully on the objectives of this project.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Hadiza Abdullahi
Head of Department
Community Medicine
College of Health Sciences
Bayero University Kano