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27 August 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

Letter of endorsement

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of University of Calabar, Etta Agbo Road, Calabar, Cross River State, Calabar Postal Code: 540242, Nigeria, VAT FIRS No: 016052380001 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 Cross River Health and Demographic Surveillance System (CRHDSS) is a community-level demographic and health data collection and management platform with the capacity to monitor births, deaths, and morbidity indicators and track the impact of health and socio-economic interventions in the demographic surveillance area. The goal of the CRHDSS is to generate timely and reliable data on health, demographic and socio-economic indicators to inform policy and planning on major health issues at state and local government levels. At inception in 2012, up to early 2023, a population of 44,000+ individuals was followed, and this was expanded to 177,000+ individuals under surveillance in 2023 (57.8% rural and 42.18% urban). The administrative and technical components of the CRHDSS are coordinated by the Directorate of Research, University of Calabar, while the epidemiological and disease-based components, including clinical trials, are coordinated by the Institute of Tropical Diseases Research & Prevention of the University Teaching Hospital. The Cross River HDSS is a member of the INDEPTH Network (<https://www.indepth-network.org/>).

In addition to participating in other work packages, the Cross River HDSS will play a key role in WP 5, which focuses on Epidemiological preparedness, Disease Surveillance and Population health. Under WP5, we will work with other participating sites within the INDEPTH Network to develop an achievable scope using the rich existing surveillance system platforms within the Network. The existing HDSS and additional improved strategies for data collection, analysis and dissemination will be used to identify public health threats and design appropriate responses to these threats. The surveillance data will be used to create outbreak investigation protocols to recommend targeted interventions to improve public health in countries where this project will be carried out. On WP 6 (Ethics, Regulatory, and Pharmacovigilance), we hope to leverage our experience in multi-centre clinical trials implementation and monitoring to provide leadership.

We estimate the total value of this contribution to be EUR154,000 in-kind yearly for 5 years (amounting to EUR770,000), covering personnel costs and utilities.

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,


f. **Professor Bassey Igri Okon**
Director
