



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

24th September 2025

Letter of endorsement in support of the Research Alliance for Pandemic Innovation & Drug Development (RAPID) proposal.

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), Francie van Zyl Drive, Parow, Cape Town, [VAT number 489000103718] 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 South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) is a premier national health research organisation dedicated to improving the health and well-being of South Africans through biomedical, social, and behavioral research. With a strong focus on addressing pressing health challenges, including infectious diseases and pandemics, the SAMRC promotes evidence-based policies, capacity building, and innovative solutions. Its mission is to generate knowledge that enhances health outcomes and strengthens health systems across Southern Africa, making it a vital partner in regional health initiatives and pandemic preparedness efforts.

As a beneficiary institution, the SAMRC is willing to support the HORIZON-JU-CSA “RAPID” proposal, submitted to the HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2025-03-two-stage call for pandemic preparedness. Professor Catherine Orrell, Unit Director of the HIV and other Infectious Diseases Research Unit, SAMRC will be the scientific lead for this project, and will lead the consortium through Work package 2 “Coordination and oversight: Scientific Project Lead / Project Management”. Dr Duduzile Ndwandwe, Cochrane Centre, SAMRC will lead workpackage 6 “Community & Policy Engagement: Evidence-informed decision making”; and both will share leadership of Work package 3 “Capacity and Mentorship – Team Development and Rules of Engagement”, as well as support several other workpackages e.g. workpackage 8 “Infrastructure and tools: Clinical Research Infrastructure Strengthening”, and deliverables.

We estimate the total value of this contribution to be EUR924,078.29; and attach a table detailing these amounts. We make this contribution offer subject to approval by the SAMRC Board and the relevant Ministerial approval that is required for SAMRC to meet its legal and compliance framework.



We also 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,

Sivuyile Ngqongwa

25/09/2025 14:43:22(UTC+02:00) 

Mr Sivuyile Ngqongwa
Chief Financial Officer
South African Medical Research Council