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Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
56 – 60 Avenue de la Toison d'Or
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Belgium

Letter of endorsement: EDCTP3 - HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2025-03-two-stage – Global collaborative action for strengthening the Regional Networks of Excellence and Epidemic Preparedness Consortia.

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-EDCTP3-2025-03-two-stage – Global collaborative action for strengthening the Regional Networks of Excellence and Epidemic Preparedness Consortia.

The Aurum Institute is a leading African healthcare and research organization with over 25 years of experience in tackling infectious diseases, notably tuberculosis (TB) and HIV with work done in Malaria and other relevant tropical diseases. It has conducted over 180 clinical trials, including large-scale TB vaccine studies and phase 3 prevention trials, enrolling thousands of participants across multiple sites in South Africa. 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.

The centre has experience in evaluating new interventions, utilizing vaccines, drugs and diagnostics focusing on basic research, clinical trials, epidemiological research, operational research and social sciences. The success of Aurum's initiatives stems from the dynamic collaboration within its multidisciplinary team of experts ranging from epidemiologists, health economists and social scientists, to clinical trial specialists and programme managers, who deliver a comprehensive multi-faceted approach for optimal impact and outcomes.

We confirm our participation in the RENEPSA project. This is a great opportunity for capacity building in Mozambique and Zambia; where there is need to strengthen clinical research capacity, build networks and research infrastructure for pandemic preparedness.

The Aurum Institute is the Scientific Lead for the **Regional Networks of Excellence and Epidemic Preparedness in Southern Africa (RENEPSA)** consortium comprising of the AURINI-MoZa consortium of the Aurum Institute, Right to Care and National Institute of Communicable Diseases in South Africa and INS, Eduardo Mondlane University and Fundacao Aurum as partners in Mozambique and Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) and Public Health Institute in Zambia as southern partners. These are joined by three northern university partners (Dublin City, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences & Maastricht). We believe partnering with these reputable institutions will provide the knowledge and opportunities that will enable the capacity development required within our country to fight the burden of infectious and other diseases in the years to come.

Within the consortium, Aurum will provide Scientific Leadership with Professor Setswe as the scientific lead. Dr Maenetje, one of our Senior Scientists is the Work Package 3 lead.

As the Group COO of the Aurum Institute, I offer the organisation's full support and certify that it has 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 Setswe and co-applicants to pursue the research proposed in the abovementioned project proposal, subject to funding being awarded for this project, for the entire duration of this five-year project with estimated starting date of 1 January 2026 through to 31 December 2030.

I can confirm that the Aurum Institute is able to make a co-funding contribution to the value of €150 868,66.

Description	Value	Y0	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
Safety Committee	€ 14 892,51		€ 2 978,50	€ 2 978,50	€ 2 978,50	€ 2 978,50	€ 2 978,50
Staff on CTU Core Budget	€ 123 141,93		€ 24 628,39	€ 24 628,39	€ 24 628,39	€ 24 628,39	€ 24 628,39
Aurum Marketing	€ 12 834,22		€ 2 566,84	€ 2 566,84	€ 2 566,84	€ 2 566,84	€ 2 566,84
Total	€ 150 868,66						

We confirm the following:

1. We will comply with the Grant Agreement 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,

Professor Vinodh Edward
Group Chief Operating Officer
The Aurum Institute NPC