Committing to the Health Data Collaborative: Better Data for Better Health

Background

In June 2015, global health leaders and participants in the Summit on Measurement and Accountability for Health endorsed the Health Measurement and Accountability Post 2015 Roadmap and Five Point Call to Action. This identified priority actions and targets to strengthen country data and accountability systems for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Stakeholders interested in collaborating on health data investments formed the Health Data Collaborative (HDC). A review of the HDC in January 2020 supported a revised governance structure with stronger links with the SDG3 GAP Data and Digital Accelerator.

The Health Data Collaborative's (HDC) Annual Stakeholders hybrid meeting, on the 5th and 6th December 2023 in Nairobi, builds on:
- an external objective evaluation of the HDC that provided five recommendations including a focus on country impact and the SDG 2030 agenda;
- the Better Data for Better Health event in May 2023 focusing on Investing in Country health information systems and Health Data Governance to accelerate progress towards health-related SDGs;
- the UN 2023 SDG Summit and the 2019 Political Declaration; and
- High-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), with renewed focus on SDG targets and communities that are left behind

Statement

We, the HDC stakeholders, recognise the importance of aligning efforts to ensure the availability and use of quality data for improved health outcomes.

We recognise **the role that HDC** continues to play in sharing good practices and global tools to strengthen data systems and governance in different countries, by leveraging and aligning resources (technical, financial and political) at all levels with country-owned plans and priorities for Health Information System improvement.

We are aware of the **renewed interest** by stakeholders and countries to engage with HDC as it implements the **recommendations** from the external independent evaluation (2023).

Informed and guided **by the HDC principles** and realising that countries are at the core of the HDC, we stakeholders hereby commit[i] to the following:

1. Endorse a **renewed HDC** by adopting (i) a revised HDC Scope, (ii) an updated Theory of Change (TOC), (iii) the HDC Work Plan 2024-25, (iv) a renewed HDC Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, (v) a new HDC Governance Structure, (vi) a renewed HDC Country Engagement Strategy, and (vii) an updated Communications and Advocacy Strategy. We also commit to supporting the implementation of the HDC Work Plan 2024-25, *with a clear focus on country impact* through incremental actions and review of progress by the HDC Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

2. **Countries** shall continue to provide **stewardship and leadership** to implement the HDC approach, using and strengthening coordination mechanisms that support stakeholder engagement. Countries further commit to use globally and regionally agreed frameworks and country level guiding frameworks, regulations, policies, strategies, operational plans and M+E plans to continuously strengthen the equitable use and governance of data, as well as to **hold stakeholders to account** through various in-country accountability mechanisms.

3. **HDC Working Groups** shall strengthen their role *to strengthen and produce appropriate global goods and tools* that can directly respond to countries' needs. HDC working groups shall provide multi-stakeholder technical support to countries based on the country specific needs and requests and further provide a platform for countries to learn from each other and share good practices and experiences. The HDC will continue to review and revise the needs and adaptation for global goods and tools.

4. **Regional Platforms/Institutes** shall play coordination and technical support roles in the respective regions, recognising the *opportunities that this presents for countries and the HDC.* Regional Platforms/Institutes commit to work with the HDC working groups to contribute to technical products, and support countries to strengthen Health Information Systems through advocacy, technical support, and capacity building. This will include but is not limited to data analytics, visualisation and data use and promoting country peer to peer learning and leveraging strengths in research, to generate evidence to inform countries and HDC stakeholders.

5. **Private Sector (for profit and not for profit) Stakeholders** commit to ethically work with all HDC stakeholders at the global, regional and country level to support innovations improving the availability, quality, and use of data for decision making in health for countries in accordance with national legal frameworks and systems. This includes, but is not limited to, harnessing digital solutions, interoperability, data architecture, system administration, data visualisation, cyber security, web and cloud technologies that align with country priorities and plans.

6. **Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)** commit to work with all HDC stakeholders using national, regional and global structures and HDC working groups to contribute to the work

of the HDC, to increase the representation of civil society and community voices. As CSOs, we will promote accountability of all stakeholders to the needs of individual patients and communities, especially those left behind. Further we commit to contribute and drive accountability through involvement in quality data generation, use of disaggregated data for improved decision making and more robust and equitable governance of health data to deliver improved and more equitable health outcomes.

7. **As a Community of Partners,** we stand united to leverage the power of information to influence decision making, policies, plans and budgets to improve health outcomes, close equity gaps, accelerate progress to the SDGs and positive transformations in healthcare systems everywhere by committing to:
    i. championing country ownership and leadership through aligning and harmonising our investments around country plans for greater efficiency;
    ii. responding effectively and efficiently to country specific requests on strengthening HIS, strengthening health data governance approaches, including regulation, investments in technology, capacity building for data collection processes, data analytics, generation of reliable information for decision-making, public health and clinical care;
    iii. contributing to reducing fragmented approaches and alleviating the countries' reporting burden; and
    iv. being held to account at all levels through existing accountability mechanisms.

8. As **HDC Stakeholders**, we recognise the **power of partnerships,** and we commit to work with other initiatives with common interests and objectives at all levels (global, regional and country) based on mutual trust to leverage resources for common priorities to promote better data for better health outcomes, including UHC2030, the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), the SDG 3 GAP among others.

This we agree, and do here declare and sign as follows:

Signatures by the HDC stakeholders

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i "Committing": general statement of commitment by stakeholders to build political momentum for HDC and does not in any way imply financial commitment