

Global Health Council Statement on WHA Agenda Item 11.1 Draft thirteenth general programme of work, 2019–2023

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Global Health Council, the leading alliance of non-profits, businesses, universities, and individuals dedicated to saving lives and improving the health of people worldwide, thanks you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Global Program of Work.

We applaud WHO and Director-General Tedros' commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the renewed focus on public health preparedness, and the emphasis on healthy populations through better health and well-being.

As these three goals are interconnected, and will put us on the path to achieving other global health commitments, GHC emphasizes that at the heart of the GPW is a stronger and more resilient health system. This means ensuring equitable access to the entire spectrum of health care services, including the prevention and treatment of noncommunicable diseases and the provision of sexual and reproductive health care services. Strong health systems though are not just about the services provided, but also a strong health workforce; access to quality medicines and vaccines; and the adequate provision of water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities.

The GPW suggests WHO does not see itself as the sole champion or provider of global health. In an era when our priorities are so complicated and vast, it is encouraging that new leadership embraces the idea of partnership with NGOs, the private sector, and other stakeholders. We support WHO in approaching such collaborative opportunities with openness and consistency throughout its activities and encourage WHO to leverage resources across civil society, including, when appropriate, industry in order to achieve its goals.

The goals of the GPW are also reflective of many U.S. commitments in global health, whether in ending preventable maternal and child deaths or building capacity to respond to a public health emergency. We urge the United States to continue to support the work of WHO and its vision to create healthy and economically and socially stable communities around the world.

Thank you.