CALLING ON G7 LEADERS TO INVEST IN A FUTURE FREE FROM NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES (NTDS)

Presented to: H.E. Mark Carney, Prime Minister, Canada (Host), H.E. Shigeru Ishiba, Prime Minister, Japan, H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President, France, H.E. Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister, Italy, H.E. Friedrich Merz, Chancellor, Germany, H.E. Keir Starmer, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, H.E. Donald Trump, President, United States

The recent reductions and cessation of funding for development aid and for support of the World Health Organization undermine decades of progress in disease control, health system strengthening, and global cooperation[1]. Representing an active coalition of networks in G7 countries[2], **we ask that G7 Leaders take action on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)** - legacy epidemics that still affect 1.5 billion people globally today (1 in 8); putting people at risk of preventable disability and death.

Despite years of under-investment in NTDs, steady progress towards NTD elimination has been made. To date, 55 countries have eliminated at least one NTD. Public-private partnerships[3] support NTD progress; enabling the treatment of more than 1 billion people per year for five years in a row[4]- keeping people healthy and saving lives. For every US $1 invested in preventing and treating neglected tropical diseases, US $26 worth of donated medicine reaches those who need it most[5].

NTDs offer a high return on investment. Every dollar invested in NTD Research & Development (R&D) and developing life-saving products can generate a societal and economic return of US $405. R&D funding for NTD prevention and treatment has already changed the trajectory of the disease burden globally, and will continue to do so, with continued investment. When one year lived with a disability due to NTDs is prevented, approximately US $20,000 of economic value is saved, counted in health care costs and lost economic engagement in working adult populations[6].

Addressing NTDs is a global public good, especially considering most of the 21 NTDs are climate sensitive and are migrating into new regions[7]. However, the progress made towards the WHO NTD 2030 Roadmap goals is now in jeopardy. As a result of funding cuts from G7 countries, people's lives now hang in the balance. G7 governments have a responsibility to make good on their previous commitments and end neglected tropical diseases[8].

A Message to Our Leaders

We call on G7 Governments to enable their endorsements of the Kigali Declaration on NTDs [9] and previous G7 commitments by making a collective, multi-year financial commitment to NTDs, ensuring the Sustainable Development Goals of ending NTDs as a public health problem by 2030[10] are reached. This can be achieved through the following actions:

#1. Incentivize R&D for neglected tropical diseases and promote private sector investments that optimize prevention and treatment.

#2. Work directly with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/African Union to support the Africa Epidemic Fund to strengthen health security and to support the Africa CDC Strategy to tackle Endemic Diseases.

#3. Seek avenues to integrate NTDs into existing bilateral and multilateral investments in global public health, human security, and climate, increasing efficiencies and maximising benefits[11].

#4. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been an essential partner to the fight against NTDs. Ensure flexible, core funding for a WHO capable of achieving its critical mandate coordinating universal health coverage (UHC); protecting populations from health emergencies; and improving the health and well-being of more than a billion people globally.

G7 nations play a pivotal role in ensuring global health security within and across national and regional borders, particularly when climate change and conflict challenge progress in disease elimination. We welcome a timely response and follow-up to this agenda that remains urgent, particularly at this time of disruption to achieving global health targets, including the prevention, treatment and elimination of NTDs.

Signed April 2025 in anticipation of your concerted action,

From the following NTD networks and coalitions in G7 countries:

- **The Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases**
- **Le Réseau Francophone sur les maladies Tropicales Négligées (The Francophone Network on Neglected Tropical Diseases)**
- **般社団法人の会 (NTDs Youth Organization Japan)**
- **The Deutsche Netzwerk gegen vernachlässigte Tropenkrankheiten (German Network Against Neglected Tropical Diseases)**
- **La Rete Italiana contro le Malattie Tropicali Neglette (The Italian Network Against Neglected Tropical Diseases)**
- **The United Kingdom Coalition against Neglected Tropical Diseases**
- **The United States Neglected Tropical Disease Roundtable**
- **Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases**

Endnotes

[1] FESTMIH statement 2025

[2] Groups endorsing this letter sent a letter last year advocating for G7 countries to invest in NTDs.

[3] Partnerships include communities affected by NTDs, national governments, non-governmental organizations, academic researchers, UN bodies, pharmaceutical companies, private philanthropy among others

[4] Between 2015-2019

[5] Global Citizen 2020

[6] Impact Global Health 2024

[7] Including in Southern Europe and North America

[8] All national NTD civil society groups within G7 countries putting this letter forward have endorsed the Kigali Declaration, and all G7 countries have made commitments ensuring NTD elimination 2030 goals are met through agreed statements in G7 Leader communiqués in 2024 (Italy), 2023 (Japan), 2022 (Germany); among additional NTD commitments made by each G7 country (ie: Canada and France at the 2024 Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

[9] The Kigali Declaration is a high-level policy designed to garner the collaboration, commitments and contributions required to reach the WHO NTD Roadmap 2030 goals: eliminating at least 1 NTD in 100 countries; reducing the need for NTD interventions by 90%; and eradicating guinea worm and yaws disease – all by 2030.

[10] Eliminating at least 1 NTD in 100 countries, eradicating guinea worm disease and yaws disease, and reducing the number of people requiring NTD interventions by 90%

[11] For example, female genital schistosomiasis as part of HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health investments; water and sanitation investments which also reduces the risk of schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and many vector-born NTDs; broad-based vector control for mosquitoes that also address lymphatic filariasis, dengue and chikungunya transmission.