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Date: 15 June 2018

Dr David Sergeenko
Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

Dear Sir,

**Implementing the Thirteenth General Programme of Work:
development of the programme budget 2020–2021**

I have the honour to refer to WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 (GPW 13), adopted by the Seventy-first World Health Assembly in May this year, and its accompanying Impact Framework, which sets three concrete, ambitious goals: 1 billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage; 1 billion more people better protected from health emergencies; and 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being.

The WHO Secretariat is now starting the process of consultations with Member States to develop the first programme budget (2020–2021) to implement GPW 13. With a view to realizing the country impact focus of GPW 13, the development of the programme budget 2020–2021 will start with a priority-setting process at the country level, which will guide activities for the duration of GPW 13 (2019–2023). We are therefore pleased to launch this important process, which will be the basis for the cooperation between the WHO Secretariat, Member States and partners on implementation of GPW 13.

GPW 13 signals a major shift in what and how we prioritize, plan, implement and measure our work to drive impacts at the country level. The prioritization process at country level will be anchored in national contexts and needs. It will draw on each country's national health strategy and plans, strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and cooperation strategy with WHO. The implementation of GPW 13 also offers the opportunity for WHO to align with the reform of the United Nations, and therefore the process will take into account the implications of that reform at the country level.

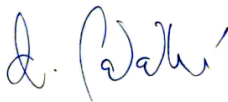
The process will involve consultation with the Ministry of Health at the highest level possible, to identify priority outcomes from within the GPW based on a review of the health situation in each country and WHO's comparative advantage in supporting the country to achieve the GPW 13 targets. Given the intersectoral collaboration required to achieve the GPW 13 goals and outcomes, I would encourage you to also invite, at your discretion, strategic partners from other relevant ministries, United Nations agencies, national institutes and nongovernmental organizations to join this common effort.

This important consultation process will be facilitated by the WHO Representative, where present, in close collaboration with you and other partners. Our Regional Office planning and technical teams will be available to support countries in this important, Organization-wide process. It is expected that at the end of the consultation process, each country will identify the priority outcomes that the country and the WHO Secretariat will be jointly working to achieve (please see Annex 1: GPW 13 planning framework). In this regard, we also invite you to identify targets to which the country will contribute during the implementation of GPW 13.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing collaboration and to take this opportunity to reiterate WHO's full commitment to working with your Ministry, partners and stakeholders to promote, protect and improve the health and well-being of your people.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours very truly,



Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab
WHO Regional Director for Europe

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