



## **M8 Alliance Statement in support of the World Health Organization**

Pandemics represent the very essence of why we cooperate internationally and why the World Health Organization (WHO) was created. The WHO is playing a vital role in the current pandemic, helping countries around the world treat, test, and protect their citizens from COVID-19. WHO's efforts are especially important in low resource and humanitarian settings with limited health infrastructure.

The World Health Summit and the M8 Alliance, its academic backbone of 28 Academic Health Centers, Universities and 140 Academies of Medicine and Science around the world expresses their strong support for and solidarity with the World Health Organization. For many years, the World Health Summit with the M8 Alliance has been working with the WHO to promote global health. Based on this close cooperation the WHO Director-General agreed to be the patron of the World Health Summit and presented the first WHO Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Goal SDG 3 "Healthy Lives and Well-being for All".

We are very heartened that the other patrons of the World Health Summit – the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, the President of the Republic of France, and the President of the European Commission, have all conveyed their political and financial backing of the WHO. We call on them to act decisively – in the G7, the G20, the United Nations and the German EU Presidency – to strengthen the mandate of the WHO and secure its funding.

The WHO is providing critical global health leadership in the face of this great pandemic challenge and providing essential global coordination efforts for the procurement of pandemic commodities and for accelerating the development of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines, while also supporting the cross-border research efforts required for such a seminal challenge. Most importantly - as expressed in its constitution - the WHO focuses on equitable access. The world needs to act in solidarity as the next wave of the pandemic hits the poorest countries.

Through our close cooperation we know of the invaluable work the WHO does and the challenges it faces in working for Health For All. Its mission to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable is fully in the focus of the M8 Alliance and its work. We call on all the partners and participants of the World Health Summit to also express their support and take determined action to work for health across borders. We also encourage them to contribute to the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, which helps the WHO to coordinate the global effort and support countries to prevent, detect, and respond to the pandemic.

Signed by the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies