Official Side Event to the
Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) (S035)

Creating an African Digital Health & Development Dynamic
Universal Health Coverage in the 21st Century
Including Launch of the African Digital He@lth Initiative 2030

Pacifico Yokohama, Annex F201, 13.00-14.30 pm
Friday 30 August 2019

Concept Note

At the H20 Summit on 24 June 2019 in Tokyo, strong support was voiced in the Call to Action of the G20 Health and Development Partnership to leaders at the Government of Japan’s G20 Osaka Summit both for the launch of an African Digital Health Initiative 2030 at the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7), and for the development of a multi-stakeholder Global Digital Health Innovation Fund.¹ This followed the landmark passage on 26 May 2018 of the World Health Assembly Resolution (WHA 71.7) on “Digital Health”.² On 16 October 2018 in Berlin, the announcement was made by the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General of the Global Digital Health Initiative 2030 and The Principles for Donor Alignment for Digital Health.³ In September and October 2019, the global health innovation agenda will be further carried forward at the first UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage and the G20 Health Ministers Meeting in Okayama.

Yet this promising progress at the global policy and geopolitical levels will be meaningless if not translated, and soon, into national health systems and solutions delivery on the ground, and most importantly in sub-Saharan Africa.

This concept note argues that Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) enabled by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are positioned in Africa as key means for accelerated implementation of next generation Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and achievement of the health-related the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.⁴ While African nations still require traditional development pathways in many aspects, it is obvious that recent disruptive technological change is significantly influencing the current and future prosperity of African economies and societies. But critical success factors must now be turned from theory into practice. Mobilizing the power of STI and ICT through open innovation can create a digital health and development dynamic in Africa. This requires raising awareness among multiple stakeholders, consensus building for an accelerated health and development agenda, and resource mobilization for a trusted and transformative data and digital health ecosystem. TICAD 7 provides the ideal platform for generating the required momentum to turn concept into reality.

Global Digital Health and National African Champions

Understanding the real time and tectonic shifts in governance structures, business models and the market entry of non-traditional actors into global health innovation and investment is essential for both public and private sector partners. However, the digital healthcare revolution is still at a nascent stage of development. While the true value of digital health—namely, the convergence of technologies to support healthy living around the world—can be agreed upon as a broad definition, exactly what digital health means today or the roles to be played by diverse actors in bringing it to scale in a sustainable way will vary considerably in and between nations, and requires further debate and research. In Africa, with no single national market big enough to ensure or sustain critical mass, cooperative and collaborative pan-African innovation and investment across and between borders will be essential.

The current challenge in digital healthcare is also no longer purely about technology. Governments in collaboration with the private sector and civil society have a collective responsibility to determine how to initiate entire healthcare ecosystems to adopt new technology—enabling ways of meeting the innumerable challenges faced in global health and human security. Digital innovation is set to become an integral part of health service delivery. Few doubt the potential of digital health technologies to improve the response to outbreaks and epidemics, as well as strengthen routine care by increasing access and enabling leaders to take data-led action to improve care, but until now and particularly in Africa too many expensive pilot projects have too often failed to be mainstreamed into national programs. A new deal is urgently required and driven by national champions from government and business.

Indeed, continuing with the status quo risks increasing the digital health divide and increase health inequality, especially for women, youth and ageing populations in the poorest and remotest of resource-poor settings. If managed properly, digital innovation has the power to accelerate health equity by making health systems stronger, more resilient, and ultimately more effective. In addition, the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data Analytics, Blockchain and other digital and frontier biotechnologies have the potential to enhance health leapfrog of legacy systems significantly by improving efficiency, medical diagnostics, data-based treatment decisions, self-management of care and outbreak prediction. So how will this total convergence unleash the digital opportunity to improve health and wellbeing for all at all ages in the African context?
Unique Policy and Technology Window for Africa Society 5.0

As new technological developments aim to personalize precision medicine in order to tailor prevention and treatment to individual patients based on their genetic makeup, the boundaries between the physical, biological and digital worlds are blurring. In this complex environment, the next step is ensuring global cooperation and collaboration for the sustainability of innovations and investments, their feasibility, scale-up and inclusivity. However, and in contrast to key sectors like banking, insurance, media, mobile and retail where digital ubiquity is accepted as the new normal, this is far from the case in public health today. Furthermore, even as the private sector is beginning to address next generation UHC and the SDGs as vibrant and viable markets, the health and technology industries continue to diverge in vital aspects of economic, cultural and network integration.

What does seem clear is that beyond the hype and with the digital healthcare revolution still at an embryonic stage of development an unprecedented policy and technology window is now opening to build in international standards for interoperability and safeguards for patient safety at the earliest stage of evolution. Already, we can see the phenomenon of social media concentration and consequent abuse of data privacy, cyber-security, and customer trust as precisely the issues that must be confronted in the digital transformation of global healthcare. As the World Wide Web turns 30 years old, it is time to reset the digital clock. It is time to conjure a vision that imagines the possible for an Africa Society 5.0 as a roadmap for entrepreneurs and digital transformation based on equity and inclusivity in harmonic partnerships with government, business and civil society can now be an endgame aspiration⁶.

Emerging Elements for Africa Society 5.0 National Digital Health Strategies

- **UHC 2030 and SDG 3** - To unleash the full potential of data-driven innovation and investment in ICTs for multi-stakeholder action in accelerating achievement of Universal Health Coverage and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, with especial focus on Goal 3 to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.

- **National Champions** - To create political will for national and regional digital health strategies for connected, person-centric healthcare and well-being ecosystems through engagement of national champions at the highest level of government and industry in delivering digital infrastructure for safety and security, in partnership with private sector, civil society and multilateral organizations.

- **Roadmap for Action** - To develop a roadmap for cooperative and collaborative action to baseline how legacy and leapfrog national health systems can harness data driven innovation and investment, requiring global consensus on principles and standards for open and equitable access to good data and digital public goods as the lifeblood of future healthcare and wellbeing.

- **Data Governance** - To build data free-flow with trust in the transformational benefits of shared personal and public health data and health information systems for cost, quality, safety and performance gains, advancing global health security for clinical and medical prevention, detection, treatment and response practices.

- **Economic Viability** - To make the economic and social case for a digitally driven approach to harnessing the cultural, ethical and socio-economic determinant of UHC 2030 and the SDGs to ensure equity, universality and quality of service with data based indicators for global digital healthcare return on investment as part of the digital economy and society of the 21st Century

- **Standardization and Interoperability** - To advance cross-sector coordination and collaboration in standardization, interoperability, policy and regulatory efforts in delivering scalable and sustainable digital health platforms worldwide, where standard platforms will accelerate uptake for critical mass and makes the power of the network count.

- **Research and Development** - To develop a framework to enable, govern, and finance open and equitable access to the benefits of research and development (R&D) data, mobilizing research knowledge for evidence-based inquiry and science-based policy action to initiate and, most importantly, sustain priority projects of international collaboration.

- **Human Rights** - To seek and support remedies to the global policy incoherence between international human rights law and trade rules in the context of the innovation of, and access to, medicines and health technologies, thereby ensuring that global health in the digital era becomes a basic human right for all at all ages.

- **Emergency Platforms** - To support emerging emergency data platforms and platform inter-operability for Global Early Warning Systems and Risk Preparedness for current and future infectious disease outbreaks and the diseases of climate change via multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration and R&D, and data-driven supply chain models for life saving commodities, vaccines and medicines, matched to digital literacy, education and health workforce needs.

- **Ageing-Youth Populations and Chronic Disease** - To mobilize innovation and investment by all government, business, civil society and multilateral stakeholders in applying the transformational nature of digital health in addressing the disease burden of ageing and growing youth populations and the global pandemic in chronic non-communicable disease (NCDs) and multiple chronic disease (MCD), matched to digital literacy, education and health workforce needs.

Source: Global Health 2030 Innovation Task Force-Global Digital Health Initiative 2030, August 2019
On 30 August 2019, “Creating an African Digital Health and Development Dynamic: Universal Health Coverage in the 21st Century” will gather together leading thinkers and practitioners in global health and technology at TICAD 7 to explore just how we can collectively place African health at the center of sustainable economic development, and recognizing that economic development alone is not a guarantee that health inequalities will be decreased. The event will start from the premise of actively promoting existing and innovative business and financing models for global health research and development (R&D), including through the engagement of those who have and continue to benefit the most from globalization: namely, the ICT, pharmaceutical, health technology, financial services and social media industries.

Fundamentally, digital health matters because it is the primary and possibly the only means by which both the health-related SDGs and UHC itself as an overarching target of the SDG 3 can be achieved by 2030, where essential elements for creating an enabling environment for digital health systems and solutions will include (see Annex 1):

- Connectivity among people and systems by supporting digital and mobile communication infrastructure and building common platforms;
- Data shared and leveraged for privacy, safety, security and trust to manage care better by establishing standardized interoperability frameworks;
- Partnerships among the diverse health system public, civil society and private sector healthcare stakeholders with contributing roles to play;
- Adequate business, financing and Return on Investment models for common health platforms and digital health solutions to make it all possible and protect people from financial hardship.

Meeting Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Africa Society 5.0 can derive from the concept of Japan Society 5.0 as a way global healthcare can be reimagined and reorganized for the future inclusion of women, youth, disabled, vulnerable and ageing populations in both developing and developed countries. The TICAD 7

- Establish the leadership role and advocacy power of African government and business leaders;
- Broker regional and continent level partnership opportunities for economies of scope and scale;
- Establish new market based innovative financing and investment incentive vehicles, including a potential African Digital Health Innovation (ADHI) Fund as part of the Global Digital Health Innovation (GDHI) Fund;
- Leverage digital technologies for high level and evidence-based health impact via international partners;
- Establish regional hubs for the African Digital Health Initiative 2030 in East, West, Southern Africa
- Input to ongoing G20 and WHO global digital health strategy works in progress in 2019 and 2020.

The meeting will culminate in a Call to Action and launch of the African Digital Health Initiative (ADHI) 2030 – an African led coalition that will mobilize a core group of national public and private sector champions through a coordinated and neutral platform to advance next generation UHC and SDG 3 outcomes and shape digital health markets across Africa. The coalition will build on regional platforms in East, West and Southern Africa to unlock synergies that will contribute more directly to meeting national and regional health goals, drive the mandate of creating long-term and effective impact in health across Africa, leading to improved health and wellbeing of people, and ultimately the African economy. Critically, ADHI 2030 will mean empowering the shared values of government, business and civil society in the global and local debate and decision-making process.


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Program

13.00 – Welcome and Introduction by Co-Chairs

- **Mr. Alan Donnelly**, Convener, G20 Health and Development Partnership (confirmed**)
- **Dr. Denis Gilhooly**, Founder & CEO, Global He@lth 2030 Innovation Task Force, Co-Chair, Global Digital Health Initiative 2030 (confirmed)
- **Mr. Michikazu Koshiba**, Head, Centre on Global Health Architecture, Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting (confirmed)
- **Prof. Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa**, Chairman, Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI), Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Committee Chair, Hideyo Nuchi Africa Prize, Chair & Founder, IMPACT Foundation Japan (confirmed)

13.00-13.30 – Opening Keynote Remarks — **Africa Innovation & Investment Imperative**

- **H.E. Ms. Bience Gawanas**, Under Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the UN Secretary-General, UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UN OSAA) (confirmed)
- **Dr. Vinton G. Cerf**, Chief Internet Evangelist, Google, Internet Pioneer & Member, UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation (confirmed*)
- **Mr. Masahiko Kiya**, Ambassador for TICAD, Deputy Assistant Minister, Deputy-Director General, African Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, Co-Chair, G20 Health Working Group 2019 (tbc)
- **Dr. Matsidisho R. Moeti**, Regional Director, World Health Organization Africa (WHO AFRO)
- **H.E. Dr. Achim Steiner**, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Co-Chair, UN Secretary General’s Task Force on Digital Financing (tbc)

*video message, **live via video

- H.E. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, Minister of Health, Republic of Ghana (confirmed)
- H.E. Dr. Diane Gashumba, Minister of Health, Republic of Rwanda (confirmed**)
- H.E. Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation, Republic of Rwanda (confirmed)
- Prof. H.E. Dr. Zwelini Mkhize, Minister of Health, Republic of South Africa (confirmed)
- H.E. Ms. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Minister of Communications, Republic of Ghana (confirmed)
- H.E. Mr. Ebrahim Patel, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of South Africa (confirmed)


- Dr. Ernest Darkoh, Co-Founder & Co-CEO, BroadReach (confirmed)
- Dr. C. James Hospedales, Chair, The Defeat-NCD Partnership (confirmed**)
- Prof. Osamu Kunii, Head, Strategy, Investment and Impact Division, The Global Fund
- Prof. Motoo Kusakabe, President, Open City Institute (confirmed)
- Mr. Lacina Koné, Director General, Smart Africa (confirmed)
- H.E. Ms. Cina Lawson, Minister of Posts & Digital Economy, République Togolaise (confirmed)
- Dr. Cláudia Abreu Lopes, Research Fellow, UNU-IIGH (confirmed)
- Mr. Matt McEnany, Manager, Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) (confirmed)
- Prof. Dr. Isao Nakajima, Head, Nakajima Laboratory, Tokai University School of Medicine, Chair for eHealth, ITU-D SG-2 (confirmed)
- Dr. Marie-Ange Saraaka-Yao, Managing Director, Resource Mobilization, Private Sector Partnerships and & Innovative Financing, GAVI Alliance (confirmed)
- Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO) (confirmed)
- Dr. Terry Sweeney, Managing Director, IBM Watson Health (confirmed)

14.30 – Session Close and Call to Action for African Digital Health and UHC 2030 Coverage

*video message, **live via video