



## **Wellcome Trust statement at 71<sup>st</sup> World Health Assembly May 2018**

### **Agenda item 11.1 Draft thirteenth general programme of work, 2019-2023**

Honourable Chair and distinguished delegates. The Wellcome Trust is honoured to make our first contribution to Assembly proceedings as a non-state actor.

Wellcome is a global charitable foundation that supports research to improve health in over 100 countries.

We applaud the ambitious triple-billion goal outlined in the 13<sup>th</sup> General Programme of Work. Director General Dr Tedros and his team have set out a plan to bring measurable impact and a new era for global health. WHO is best placed to lead this change. However, WHO cannot achieve this alone, and Wellcome is stepping up its efforts as a strategic partner for WHO in our shared mission of improving health for everyone. Over the coming year, we will work particularly closely on small number of priorities:

First, our shared priority to keep the world safe from epidemics and other health emergencies, where Wellcome will continue to support the R+D blueprint which is already providing a clearer roadmap to inform response. We will also provide financial support to the new Global Preparedness Monitoring Board.

Second, tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR), where we will provide further support to the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on AMR as they prepare to report to the UN Secretary General next year.

Third, supporting better coordination of research across global health, including recognising new priorities and emerging centres of research excellence.

Over the coming year we will develop further strategic programmes together, and Wellcome will look at other activities in support of WHO's reform priorities - for example, supporting a pilot scheme for the WHO internship programme, providing funded placements to 150 interns from low and middle-income countries over the next three years.

Through these commitments and other activity, we will continue to ask more of ourselves, of WHO, and others to make the General Programme of Work a reality.