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**Dr. Chris Elias**  
Bill & Melinda Gates  
Foundation

**CO-CHAIR**

**Dr. Natalia Kanem**  
UNFPA

4 April 2018

Dear Reference Group Colleagues,

We are writing to thank you for your investment and dedication to advancing the rights of women and girls and, in our capacity as Co-Chairs of FP2020, to synchronize our planning ahead of this critical year for the family planning community.

This letter outlines the following:

1. Goals and priorities for 2018;
2. Key dates for Reference Group activities;
3. An agenda for the forthcoming Reference Group 2018 meeting; and
4. An introduction to new members of the Reference Group.

Beth and her team at the Secretariat are prepared to further discuss our planning with you to ensure they are aligned with your expectations.

### **1. Goals and priorities for 2018**

The July 2017 Family Planning Summit was a moment of solidarity, celebration, and renewal for the FP2020 partnership. This year, the Reference Group will continue to build support and action around our priorities globally and within our respective institutions. We hope that Reference Group members will continue to play a key role to ensure that each institution delivers on their commitments and demonstrates results. As we look towards 2020, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, we count on Members to keep family planning high on the global agenda, and to use data and evidence to ensure that voluntary family planning is integrated into primary health care systems.

### **2. Key dates for Reference Group activities**

Reference Group meetings offer an important platform to review the latest data, align our priorities and challenges, and identify strategies to support the FP2020 movement.

Kindly note the following dates in your calendar:

- 1 May 2018:** 90-minute Reference Group teleconference call;
- 9-11 July 2018:** In-person Reference Group meeting in Seattle, USA; and
- 12 November 2018:** Special meeting of the Reference Group in advance of the opening ceremony at the International Conference on Family Planning in Kigali, Rwanda.

### **3. An agenda for Reference Group 2018**

During our most recent meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, the Reference Group reviewed the latest data on FP2020 progress and considered high-impact, evidence-based solutions to addressing global challenges outlined in the discussions. Forthcoming agendas will build on our current responses to ongoing challenges and priorities:

- supporting country partners to develop sustainable financing models for family planning;
- strengthening supply chains for commodities and expanding the range of available high-quality contraceptives;
- meeting the reproductive health needs of adolescents and youth;
- improving the quality of family planning programs, services, and counseling; and
- reaching the most vulnerable, hard-to-reach populations.

#### 4. An introduction to new members of the Reference Group

The diversity of membership is one of the Reference Group's best assets. Over the course of the initiative, the composition of the group has evolved and expanded to ensure that we leverage a broad range of perspectives.

We are pleased to introduce new members who will join the Reference Group for a two-year term. The Secretariat announced the appointment of **Manasa Priya Vasudevan of India** and **Mbencho Andrew Millan of Cameroon** in the recent FP2020 newsletter. Manasa and Andrew were selected from more than 250 people (aged under 30) worldwide who applied for two youth seats. They bring a wealth of knowledge on the critical needs and barriers that their peers around the world confront each day as they seek out accurate, high-quality sexual and reproductive health information and services. Their guidance and leadership at this juncture will help FP2020 realize its goals and strengthen ties within the global family planning community and its future leaders.

We are also honored to announce that **Her Excellency the Commissioner for Social Affairs', African Union Commission, Mrs. Amira Elfadil**, and **Mr. Faiz Ahmed, Secretary, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh**, will both join the Reference Group, and that **Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Minister of Health and Family Welfare** will represent the Government of India going forward.

We look forward to upcoming meetings that offer important fora for us to deepen collaboration and hold each other accountable for delivering on our collective and individual responsibilities. We are profoundly committed to working together to ensure that the Reference Group is action-oriented and maintains a global perspective on the FP2020 movement, while responding to the specific needs of FP2020 countries and constituencies.

We remain committed to maximizing the potential of FP2020 as a partnership dedicated to the rights of women and girls, and we look forward to working with you and your teams over the course of the year.

We welcome your suggestions and feedback on a continual basis. Thank you for your leadership and your investment to date.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nkanem'.

Dr. Natalia Kanem  
Executive Director  
UNFPA, the United Nations  
Population Fund Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Elias'.

Dr. Chris Elias  
President of Global Development  
Bill & Melinda Gates

