B20 Health Initiative

Resilient, sustainable, and future-oriented health systems are indispensable – not only for the well-being of each individual but also for the well-being of our societies, for economic growth, prosperity and development.

Today, we are living longer, healthier, and more productive lives thanks to innovative medical products such as vaccines, medicines, and diagnostics. However, the lack of effective medical tools still spells enormous costs for the global economy and our societies. The Commission on a Global Health Risk Framework for the Future estimates that pandemics cost the world economy US$ 60 billion every year.

The healthcare sector is one of the largest business sectors in the G20. In Germany, for example, the healthcare sector contributed € 324 billion to the economy in 2015 (12 percent of Gross Domestic Product, GDP). The sector's research intensity and power to innovate, large share in employment, and outward-orientation make it an important driver of economic growth and development for the G20 members and beyond.

At the same time, the global healthcare sector faces unprecedented challenges. Demographic change, aging populations, increasing life expectancies, and changing lifestyles are just some of the most significant challenges. Together with increasing demand for healthcare products as well as services and tight budgetary constraints, they place a growing burden on healthcare systems. Global healthcare expenditure is expected to increase from US$ 7 trillion in 2015 to US$ 8.7 trillion in 2020. The increase of numerous chronic diseases (heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and others) is going to be amongst the most challenging health issues. The three most significant causes of death – cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and respiratory diseases – could account for 50 percent, or roughly US$ 4 trillion, of global healthcare expenditures by 2020. In addition, the high prevalence of communicable diseases, including emerging and re-emerging diseases, exacerbate the enormous pressure on the healthcare sector. Drug-resistant diseases and infections pose another severe challenge. The Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the recent outbreak of the Zika virus in the Americas also made it clear that the world is still woefully underprepared for pandemics.

The poorest nations tend to suffer the most from health problems. There is ample evidence of the effects of health on development: countries with weak health and education conditions find it harder to achieve sustainable growth and development. Governments in less and least developed countries are struggling to offer adequate access to healthcare to their populations, often due to workforce shortages, patient locations, infrastructure limitations, and budgetary constraints. Investment in health is thus not only desirable, but is necessary for most societies. Roughly 400 million people in low- and middle-income countries currently lack access to effective and affordable healthcare. A healthy population is essential to delivering sustainable and inclusive economic growth and security. One extra year of life expectancy has the potential to raise a country's per capita GDP by about four percent.

In an increasingly interconnected world, we need to find joint answers to today's health challenges. We need to build strong, accessible, affordable, sustainable, and resilient health systems. This requires cooperation across countries, across the various international organizations – with the WHO at the center –, industry, and civil society. Industry plays a central role by researching, developing, and refining new health solutions. Many healthcare companies are already contributing significantly to combating diseases in emerging and developing countries. However, governments need to create an environment which fosters research and development. Only healthcare systems, which incentivize the uptake of innovative medical products and allow greater access, will deliver on social development and will be sustainable, resilient, and future-oriented. At the same time, governments need to ensure that medical products and services reach the people in need by improving distribution channels and by

stepping up efforts in training of medical professionals. In addition, governments need to invest more in building health literacy and strengthening the basis of self-care.

Therefore, the B20 lauds G20 Germany for placing health on the agenda of this year's summit. It is crucial that the world's health challenges become a permanent agenda item for the G20. Aiming to improve health globally must be synonymous with committing to long-term engagement and investment. Medical innovation and policy changes take years to develop and take effect. Only a sustained and long-term commitment can ensure progress.

Recommendations

Driving Innovation in Healthcare

Recommendation 1: Driving Innovation in Healthcare – The G20 members should adopt policies that ensure that the benefits delivered by research and development for more effective diagnostics and therapies are adequately recognized. They should also adopt policies that improve access to healthcare by establishing a pro-innovation ecosystem that prioritizes self-care and empowerment of individuals.

Policy Action 1.1: Encouraging Innovation – The G20 members should value innovation in all its forms, including major and incremental advances from all sectors through market-based incentives. They should encourage the ongoing nature of research and development where, at times, small steps cumulatively lead to progress, particularly in medicine, and substantial gains for patients.

- The G20 members should create and nurture innovation ecosystems by cultivating predictable, transparent and robust legal and regulatory regimes, and by training skilled workers in a climate that promotes knowledge exchange and local absorption capacity.

- The G20 members should reaffirm the importance of effective and predictable intellectual property (IP) protection, including patents, regulatory data protection, and patent term extensions as a key incentive for innovation.

- The G20 members should accelerate the approval processes for diagnostics, new therapies, and treatments, as well as enable a rapid uptake of new technologies.

- The G20 members should track their innovation readiness, identify enablers and barriers, and act upon them, including support for health startups.

Policy Action 1.2: Fostering Results-Focused Approaches – The G20 members should foster a results-focused approach to healthcare systems by facilitating regulations that evaluate innovations based on their contribution to the sustainability of healthcare systems, by reducing inefficiencies in the entire system, by advancing R&D collaborations, and by offering patient-centric care while securing fast access to innovation.

- The G20 members should adopt a holistic approach and address all inefficiencies in the healthcare system.

- The G20 members should keep markets open to enable knowledge exchange and investment in health.

- The G20 members should support multi-stakeholder dialogues and collaborations in order to address healthcare challenges efficiently.

Policy Action 1.3: Improving Universal Health Coverage and Self-Care – The G20 members should promote access to essential healthcare services to their citizens by sharing best practices, building improved healthcare policies, incentivizing private sector involvement, and empowering citizens by enabling self-care and health literacy.

- The G20 members should exchange best practices with higher-, middle-, and low-income countries on how to best extend access to essential medical and rehabilitation services to the populations that require them most.

- The G20 members should enhance health capacity building, more strongly cooperate on aid for health, and identify areas for joint action.

- The G20 members should promote effective self-care and well-being as well as health literacy by undertaking education and awareness efforts.

Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Recommendation 2: Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) – The G20 members should combat antimicrobial resistance, including multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), by incentivizing R&D of new medicines, advancing preventive measures, and promoting responsible use of antibiotics, as well as supporting capacity building in low- and middle-income countries.

Policy Action 2.1: Scaling up R&D – The G20 members should improve the conditions for developing new antimicrobials, vaccines, therapies, diagnostics, and better technologies for infection control by increasing the predictability and sustainability of R&D funding, improving the convergence of the regulatory environment across borders, and incentivizing cooperation between business and research organizations.

- The G20 members should incentivize the product development of new antimicrobials, vaccines, therapies, diagnostics, and technologies for infection control through appropriate push and pull mechanisms such as development funds and launch rewards.

- The G20 members should commit to support the Global Antibiotic Research and Development (GARDP) Partnership and the Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator (CARB-X).

- The G20 members should work together to harmonize regulatory environments across countries to accommodate and incentivize global collaborative research and product development.

Policy Action 2.2: Setting Guidelines – The G20 members should call on the World Health Organization (WHO) together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to devise guidelines for responsible and sustainable use of antibiotics, and to disseminate the information to all stakeholders. Guidelines are also needed to improve infection control measures and education.

- The guidelines should include: appropriate use of antibiotics in hospitals, office-based care, primary care, and agriculture (including livestock and crop-based industries), which limits the use of antibiotics in quantity and point in time. This also requires rethinking preventative uses of antibiotics.

- The G20 members should disseminate information about a rational use of antibiotics to prescribers, patients, and other important stakeholders.

- The G20 members should commit to intensify their efforts to implement the WHO's Global AMR Surveillance System (GLASS).

Policy Action 2.3: Advancing Capacity Building – The G20 members should assist low- and middle-income countries in their fight against AMR, including MDR-TB as well as other neglected diseases that may impact AMR, and support R&D capacity building in the countries that require it most.

- The G20 members should foster availability of better vaccines, diagnostics, and innovative medicines which can reduce diseases caused by resistant strains and decrease the inappropriate use of antibiotics and other medicines.

- Together with business, the G20 members should devise financing mechanisms that ensure access to new and existing antibiotics for those that cannot afford them.

- The G20 members should focus their capacity building on AMR surveillance and support low- and middle-income countries that require help in developing surveillance systems.

Fighting Neglected Tropical Diseseases (NTDs)

Recommendation 3: Fighting Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) – The G20 members should fight NTDs by increasing funding for public health interventions, strengthening cooperation with governments of endemic countries and capacity building, as well as agreeing on more financial support for R&D.

Policy Action 3.1: Advancing Cross-Cutting Approaches – The G20 members should advance cross-cutting approaches to tackle NTDs as specified by the WHO's five public-health interventions to prevent, control, eliminate, and eradicate NTDs.

- The G20 members should increase funding in the fight against NTDs in line with the WHO's guidance on the most effective public-health interventions in the field.

- In addition, the G20 members should work with governments of NTD-endemic countries to encourage co-investment in the battle against these diseases and in capacity building.

- The G20 members should facilitate and participate in multi-stakeholder partnerships, including domestic governments, which implement cross-sectoral solutions to combat NTDs.

Policy Action 3.2: Increasing Funding for Research and Product Development – The G20 members should agree to scale up research and product development to battle NTDs.

- The G20 members should increase funding for R&D for NTDs, not only in discovery, but especially in the product development phase through actors such as product development partnerships (PDPs) and support capacity building to ensure uptake.

- The G20 members should work together with the business community and civil society to devise access mechanisms for new medical tools.

- The G20 members should encourage R&D for new medical tools by improving the regulatory landscape, including patents and advanced market commitments where appropriate.

Improving Pandemic Preparedness and Response

Recommendation 4: Improving Pandemic Preparedness and Response – The G20 members should support ongoing efforts to improve pandemic preparedness and response, including efforts to foster public-private partnerships in a variety of sectors.

Policy Action 4.1: Promoting PPPs in Infectious Disease Research and Product Development – The G20 members should support initiatives to accelerate R&D relating to infectious diseases.

- The G20 members should provide increased financial support the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI), which has a strong focus on vaccines, and encourage the development of an equivalent international public-private partnership focused on diagnostics.

- The G20 members should work with industry partners to develop approaches to accelerate drug approval processes through regulatory harmonization as well as to ensure adequate and flexible manufacturing capacity and stockpiling arrangements.

- The G20 members should ensure that responses to health security threats are not impeded by national legislation. The G20 members should be able to freely and safely share genetic resources and other materials needed to enable speedy development of medical interventions.

Policy Action 4.2: Promoting PPPs in Preparedness and Response – The G20 members should support efforts to develop effective public-private partnerships for pandemic preparedness and response.

- The G20 members should encourage assessments of private sector engagement in preparedness and response in Joint External Evaluations (JEE), including, but not limited to, private sector healthcare providers. JEEs should be followed up by regular cross-sectoral pandemic simulations to build awareness and improve execution and coordination of responses.

- The G20 members should leverage private sector assets and capabilities for the prevention, detection, and control of infectious disease outbreaks, particularly in data management and logistics.

- The G20 members should work with financial institutions to ensure maintenance of essential services during outbreaks, including access to credit, and empower local banks to offer flexible and accessible loans to businesses so that they can adapt repayment schedules to external shocks.

Policy Action 4.3: Incorporating Pandemic Risk in Macro-Economic Assessments – The G20 members should encourage incorporating the economic risks of infectious disease outbreaks into macro-economic assessments to build greater risk awareness and encourage investment in preparedness.

- The G20 members should task the IMF and World Bank to develop the capabilities to incorporate the economic risks of pandemics into assessments of countries' economic risks and prospects (e.g. the IMF's Article IV Consultations and the World Bank's Systematic Country Diagnostics).

- The G20 members should encourage private sector actors, such as financial institutions, to take account of infectious disease risks in investment and other business decisions.

Advancing Digital Health

Recommendation 5: Advancing Digital Health – The G20 members should endorse the use of Big Data in health by promoting translational data flows as well as protecting individual data. They should also accelerate the provision of a high performance digital health infrastructure by setting clear targets and deploying broadband and mobile connectivity.

Policy Action 5.1: Facilitating Big Data – The G20 members should endorse making use of big data in digital health by facilitating and promoting translational and cross-border data flows, while at the same time protecting patients' health data by implementing clear governance rules.

- The G20 members should foster international as well as translational data exchange among all healthcare stakeholders by introducing clear governance rules.

- The G20 should establish consensus for the need of data regulation and propose guidelines that apply across countries, such as the OECD Recommendation on Health Data Governance

Policy Action 5.2: Improving Digital Health Infrastructure – The G20 members should accelerate the provision of a high performance digital health infrastructure by setting clear targets, agreeing on international standards for technical and semantical connectivity, and boosting investment in high capacity and mobile connectivity.

- The G20 members should set measurable targets specific to health infrastructures in regional and national digital strategies, such as Healthcare Sector Digitization (eHealth) as well as National Broadband plans, and review them regularly.

- The G20 members should boost investment in mobile network infrastructures (e.g. 5G networks), especially for rural areas in underdeveloped countries, by producing national and regional actions plans with a specific target date (e.g. 2020).

Business 20

The Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue with the global business community. On September 4, 2016, the leading German business associations BDI, BDA, and DIHK, mandated by the German Chancellery, assumed the B20 presidency. Chair of B20 Germany is Dr. Jürgen Heraeus.

Since September 2016, more than 700 representatives from companies and business association developed recommendations for the G20 on a consensual basis. B20 Germany is organized in seven working groups: Trade and Investment, Energy, Climate & Resource Efficiency, Financing Growth & Infrastructure, Digitalization and Employment & Education, Responsible Business Conduct & Anti-Corruption and SMEs. In February, the B20 Health Initiative was launched. Each group is headed by a chair and several co-chairs. The approximately 100 members of each group represent all G20 countries and sectors of the economy.

B20 Health Initiative

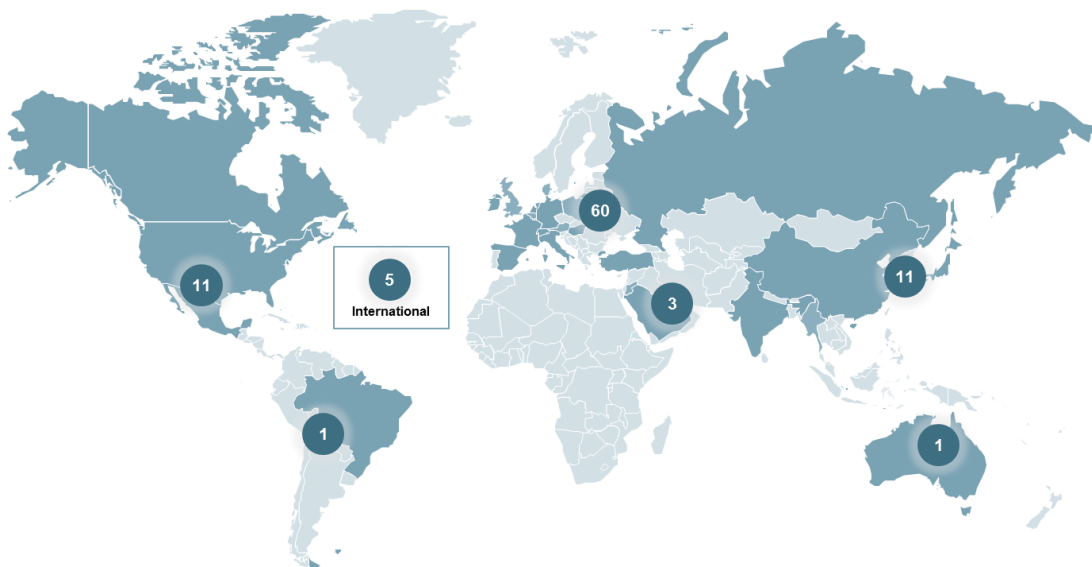| **Chairs**	
Kemal Malik, Member of the Board of Management, Bayer AG	
Stefan Oschmann, Chairman of the Executive Board & CEO, Merck KGaA	
Co-Chairs	
Carla Kriwet, Chief Business Leader Connect Care and Health Informatics, Philips	
Network Partner	**Concept Partner**
Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC)	German Healthcare Partnership (GHP)

The taskforce consists of 92 members from more than 24 countries