

INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP FOREWORD

As members of the Independent Advisory Group to IHP+Results, we have reviewed the second annual performance report to provide this commentary on the methodology, scope and relevance of the information it contains.

We begin by affirming the importance of accountability in improving aid effectiveness, both in general and specifically within the health sector. To that end, this report makes a significant and important contribution (and one which could be an exemplar for tracking Aid Effectiveness in other sectors). This report now includes standardized indicators for IHP+ partners to describe and explain their commitments and actions to promote greater health aid effectiveness. Self-reporting on these indicators is improving the accountability of IHP+ signatories to their commitments. However, it will be important to improve the degree of independent verification of the information provided by signatories in the next accountability round.

The methodology and quality of data provided in this report also shows considerable improvement from the first report. Some methodological challenges remain, and these will need to be resolved in future assessment rounds. For example, some indicators (in important areas such as civil society engagement and capacity building) remain open to interpretation, and require more careful measurement and qualitative texture. Such refinement, the need for which is acknowledged in the report, will further increase the rigour and usefulness of the data in the next accountability exercise. These methodological issues do not undermine the present report's reasonable assessment of IHP+ signatories' performance regarding their commitments under the IHP+.

The empirical information provided in the scorecards is particularly valuable and makes international health assistance processes more transparent and accountable. The scorecards should be made widely available, and rendered accessible in terms of presentation and language, to a wide range of interested stakeholders. They represent useful instruments for promoting discussion at country and global levels about how procedures and processes could be improved.

We are aware that not all Development Partners view all of the measures as applicable to their work. Nonetheless, as IHP+ signatories, they have committed themselves to being accountable for improving health Aid Effectiveness and harmonization. We thus encourage them to specify how their practices are consistent with the measures and to report on this accordingly. Additionally, to better ensure accountability of both Development Partners and governments with agreed commitments, it is crucial that indigenous organizations and institutions are allocated resources and assistance to develop their capacity to engage in this monitoring process.

It is notable that only half of all IHP+ signatories have participated in this accountability round. The long-term robustness and utility of the accountability exercise rests on participation by a larger proportion of reporting signatories and we encourage all signatories to participate in the next accountability round. We believe that this accountability exercise provides important opportunities for all signatories to improve their compliance with the spirit of both the IHP+, and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Some donors (notably the USA) have not signed up to IHP+. We encourage the SURG and IHP+ Executive Team to