



AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control
and Prevention



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

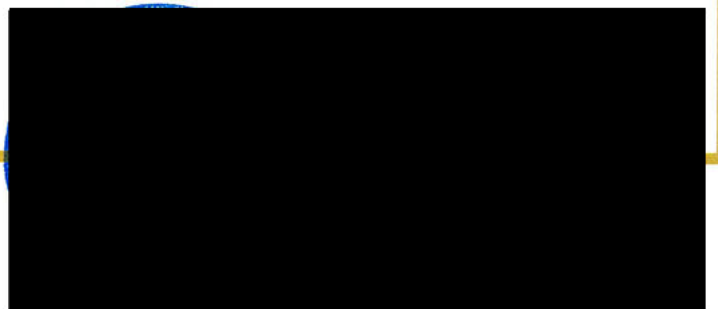
BETWEEN

THE AFRICA CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

AND

THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

MARCH 2026



THIS Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred 'MOU'), is made between the African Union (hereinafter referred to as "AU") acting through the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (hereinafter referred to as "**Africa CDC**") headquartered at Haile Garment Square, Nifas Silk Lafto Sub city, P.O. Box 200050, , Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, represented by H.E. Jean Kaseya, in his capacity as Director General of the Africa CDC, of the one part,

AND

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (hereinafter referred to as "ECDC"), whose address is Boulevard Gustav III:s 40, 16973 Solna, Sweden, represented by Dr Pamela Rendi-Wagner, in her capacity as Director of ECDC, of the other part;

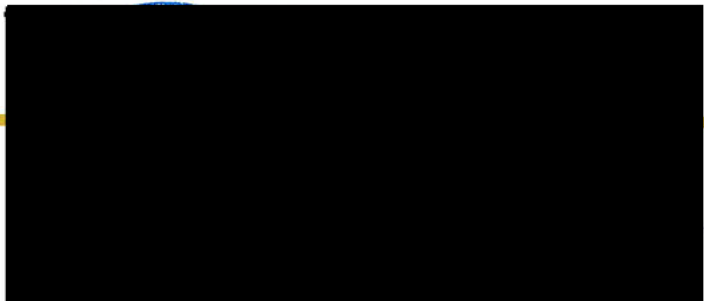
HEREINAFTER jointly referred to as "**the Parties**" and individually as the "**Party**" of this MOU;

CONSIDERING that the Africa CDC is an autonomous health institution of the African Union charged with the responsibility of promoting the prevention and control of diseases in Africa to (i) strengthen integrated health systems to prevent and control high-burden diseases; (ii) build up proactive surveillance, intelligence gathering and early warning systems; (iii) ensure robust emergency preparedness and response capabilities for all public health emergencies; (iv) strengthen Africa's National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs); (v) expand health product and technology innovation and manufacturing;

CONSIDERING that the Africa CDC Strategic Plan (2023-2027) and the African Health Security and Sovereignty (AHSS) serves as the continental framework for safeguarding Africa against current and future public health threats, and for advancing a reformed and inclusive global health architecture, through priorities that include: (i) expanded manufacturing of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics; (ii) strengthened public health workforce; (iii) respectful action-oriented partnerships; and (iv) the institutionalization of a continental Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR) agenda; (v) predictable and innovative domestic financing; and (vi) the strengthening and digital transformation of public health institutions;

CONSIDERING that ECDC is an agency of the European Union, whose mission, according to its mandate¹, is to protect people from infectious diseases, evaluate risks, and provide guidance to help countries prevent and respond to outbreaks and public health threats. ECDC aims to strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases, in particular through the early identification, assessment, and communication on current and emerging health

¹ Regulation (EC) No 851/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004, establishing a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2022/2370 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022.



threats, preparedness and response, training, support to Member States on prevention and control, and scientific advice in the area of communicable and other health threats.

CONSIDERING with satisfaction the progress achieved so far on the identification of potential areas of mutual interest, in the context of the implementation of the Africa CDC–ECDC partnership, concerning an enhanced effort on bilateral cooperation; and the partnership under the Team Europe on fighting antimicrobial resistance and strengthening the One Health workforce in Africa;

ACKNOWLEDGING the Working Arrangement between Africa CDC and the European Commission, dated 20 March 2024, intended to strengthen cooperation and facilitate technical exchange;

AGREEING, within their respective mandates on the joint need to develop information exchange and better mutual understanding between the Parties;

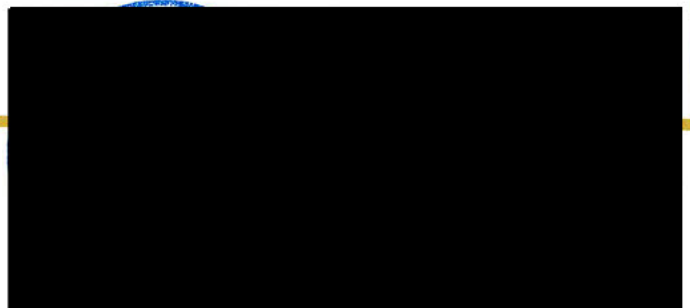
RECOGNISING the benefits of strengthened collaboration between the Africa CDC and ECDC to enhance the Africa CDC's capacity to combat communicable diseases in African Union Member States and to support global health security and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) for the benefit of both the African Union and European Union Member States.

THE PARTIES HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

SECTION 1 **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation and collaboration between the Parties in the areas of mutual interest related to the prevention and control of communicable diseases.
2. Through this MOU, the Parties intend to facilitate information exchange, mutual learning, and coordinated action in accordance with their respective mandates, to enhance public health security in Africa and Europe, without creating legally binding obligations under domestic or international law.

SECTION 2 **AREAS OF COOPERATION**




1. The Parties will cooperate in mutually agreed areas within their respective mandates and strategic priorities. Cooperation will focus on activities strengthening disease prevention and control of communicable diseases in the African Union and European Union Member States.
2. The MoU shall cover, inter alia, the following areas of cooperation, as deemed relevant and agreed by the Parties:
 - a. Epidemic intelligence including threat detection;
 - b. Data analytics and data science;
 - c. Surveillance of communicable diseases;
 - d. Risk assessment;
 - e. Laboratory capabilities;
 - f. Public health emergency preparedness and response;
 - g. Workforce development, capacity building, and public health training;
 - h. Antimicrobial resistance and Healthcare-Associated infections;
 - i. One health
 - j. Vaccine-preventable diseases and immunization; Emerging, Food - and Waterborne and Vector-Borne Diseases, Zoonotic diseases; Influenza and other respiratory infections; Sexually Transmitted Infections, Blood-Borne Viruses and Tuberculosis
 - k. Modelling and foresight
 - l. Information and knowledge management
 - m. Scientific publishing and scientific journals.
3. The Parties intend to cooperate in any other areas of mutual interest as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of this MOU and to this end may enter into Supplementary Arrangements.
4. The collaboration set out under this Article shall be implemented in accordance with the provisions set forth under the Joint Action Plan (JAP) to be developed and agreed by the Parties within ninety (90) days of the signature of this MoU. The JAP shall set out the joint activities, implementation timelines and related operational modalities, including, where necessary, due diligence requirements relating to data and intellectual property.
5. All activities in the JAP shall be undertaken in accordance with the rules, regulations and procedures of the respective Parties.

SECTION 3
MODALITIES FOR COOPERATION



1. Taking into account applicable laws and regulations in the African Union and in the European Union, and in accordance with the missions, ongoing programmes and available resources of both Parties, cooperation activities under this MOU may be conducted in the following modalities, subject to their regulatory and technical feasibility and the common interest of the Parties:
 - a. Sharing of information and expertise;
 - b. Mutual consultation in the event of an emerging health threat that may affect or concern the African Union and/or the European Union Member States;
 - c. Exchange of personal, liaison officers, and study visits;
 - d. Undertaking of studies that could provide solutions in thematic areas identified under this MOU;
 - e. Identify and design joint projects and programmes;
 - f. Providing, in a reciprocal manner, technical assistance in areas which may be identified and agreed upon;
 - g. Elaborating and promoting programmes for capacity building, among others, seminars, workshops and training courses for African and European experts specialized in the fields of interest specified in this MOU;
 - h. Any other modality of cooperation mutually determined by the Parties.

SECTION 4 **IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM**

1. The Parties may establish a joint coordination or steering mechanism (such as a Joint Coordination Committee) to oversee implementation of this MoU and related JAPs, including by reviewing progress, identifying challenges, and agreeing on adjustments where necessary.
 2. The Parties may establish technical working groups, task teams, or similar mechanisms, as necessary, to address specific subjects under Sections 2 and 3 and to support implementation of the JAPs.
 3. The Parties will meet regularly, as mutually agreed, to discuss the implementation of the MoU. Transfers of personal data (other than of administrative nature) between the Parties and the subsequent processing operations will be regulated in specific agreements.
 4. The Parties, where possible, intend to exchange information, that is relevant to the MOU, their collaborative activities and on matters of common interest.
 5. The Parties agree to consider respective proposals made that relate to activities set out in the Joint Action Plan.
- 

SECTION 5
USE OF NAME AND LOGO

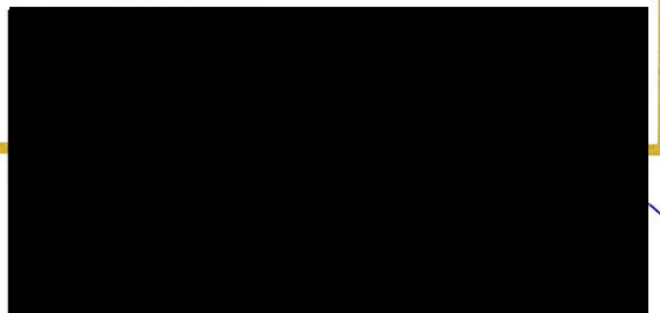
1. Neither Party will use the name, logo, emblem or trademarks of the other Party, or of any of its subsidiaries or affiliates, or any abbreviation thereof, without the prior express written consent of that Party.
2. Either Party may make factual, non-promotional reference to the existence of this MoU and its broad areas of collaboration in routine reports, public statements or informational material, provided such references do not imply any form of endorsement, sponsorship or commercial association.

SECTION 6
COST-SHARING AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Each Party shall bear its own costs and expenses arising from its participation in activities undertaken pursuant to this MoU, unless otherwise expressly agreed in writing in relation to a specific activity, project or JAP.

SECTION 7
CONFIDENTIALITY

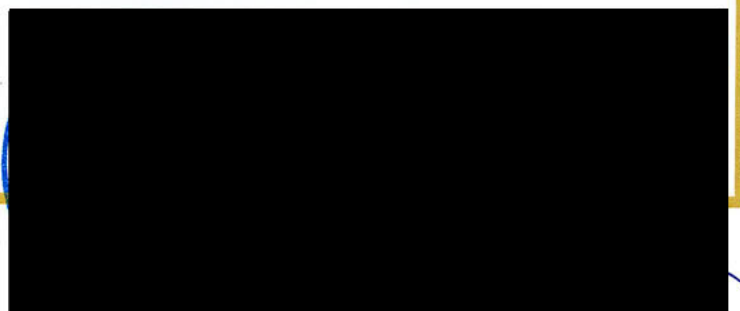
1. The Parties shall keep information and data that is disclosed during the course of this MOU confidential and related documents thereto ("**Confidential Information**"). Parties shall use such Confidential Information solely for the purpose it was disclosed.
2. Confidential Information is any information that is treated as confidential by either Party, to the extent it is: (a) if in tangible form, marked as confidential; or (b) otherwise, identified at the time of disclosure as confidential and confirmed in writing after disclosure or (c) has been disclosed in such a way that it should be obvious to the receiving Party that it is considered to be confidential.
3. The Party shall maintain the confidentiality of and not disclose to any person other than Party's officers, directors, staff with a need to know in order to carry out functions related to this MOU, any of the following information without the prior written consent of the other Party:
 - a. this MOU, its existence, its contents or terms;



- b. the nature or details of the proposed cooperation or components thereof; or
 - c. any information disclosed by either Party as part of any activity related to the MOU, including standard information relating to funded projects with such third-party funders identified in an applicable JAP as part of their routine grant and project reporting (collectively the "**Parties Confidential Information**");
4. The terms of Section 8 and 9 shall not apply to either Party's Confidential Information to the extent it (a) has been disclosed publicly without fault of either Party, (b) becomes known to the other Party from a third party without breach of confidence, or (c) is required by law to be disclosed or to be given to governmental authorities. In the event that such disclosure of the Confidential information under Section 9 (4) (c) is required, the relevant Party shall be informed as soon as possible and will cooperate with the other Party in resolving the issue, in accordance with the applicable legal framework.
5. The burden of establishing the applicability of any of these exceptions is with the Party receiving and/or using the Confidential Information.
6. The Parties shall ensure that any employee, contractor, consultant, or representative to whom it discloses Confidential Information is contractually bound by Confidentiality Obligations at least as stringent as those under Article 8.

SECTION 8
ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

1. The Parties recognize that they are each subject to legal requirements concerning access to documents and protection of personal data,
2. In particular:
 - a. ECDC is bound by Council Regulation (EC) No. 1049/2001 of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents and Council Regulation (EC) No. 2018/1725 of 23 October 2018 (the 'Regulations') on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data; and



- b. Africa CDC is bound by the African Union Rules and Regulations relating to Personal data protection and access to information.
3. All activities undertaken by the Parties in terms of this MOU fall within the scope of each Parties rules and regulations and will be treated in accordance with the applicable rules concerning access to documents and protection of personal data.


SECTION 9 **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

1. Entering into this MoU and subsequent exchange of information does not entail the transfer of any intellectual property rights by either Party.
2. Any intellectual property resulting from activities undertaken through the collaboration will be agreed upon in advance for each specific activity.

SECTION 10 **PUBLICATION**

1. Publications including scientific articles, reports, and policy briefs, that derive substantially from joint activities under this MoU and refer to either Party shall be shared between the Parties in advance for review of factual accuracy and appropriate acknowledgement, within timelines to be agreed upon by both Parties prior to publication.
2. Nothing in this Section shall prevent either Party from:
 - c. Complying with mandatory reporting obligations to its governing bodies, oversight authorities or Member States; or
 - d. Making a general, factual reference to the existence of this MoU and its broad areas of collaboration, in accordance with Section 3

SECTION 11 **REPRESENTATION**

1. This MOU shall not create, and is not intended to create, a partnership, joint venture, or agency of one another or other legal relationship that would permit one Party to act or make commitments on behalf of the other.
- 

2. Neither Party shall have the power to bind or obligate the other Party in any manner by virtue of this MOU.
3. Where appropriate, the Parties may invite each other to meetings, seminars, symposia, workshops, or conferences convened or otherwise supported by either Party, with or without external participation, at which policy matters related to the aims of this MOU will be discussed.

SECTION 12
SUPPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS AND AMENDMENTS

The Parties to this MOU may, by a simple exchange of letters, enter into supplementary arrangements within the scope of this MOU, or amend any provision contained herein, provided that to be effective such letter must be signed by both Parties.

SECTION 13
PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES AND FACILITIES OF BOTH PARTIES

Nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted or construed as a waiver or a modification of the privileges, immunities, and facilities, which the Parties enjoy under applicable international agreements and laws applicable to the Parties.

SECTION 14
ASSIGNMENT OR TRANSFER TO THIRD PARTIES

The responsibilities of the Parties under this MOU are not assignable or transferable. Any attempt to assign or transfer is void unless there is prior written approval of the Parties.

SECTION 15
ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION

1. The MOU shall enter into effect on the date of its signature by both Parties and shall remain in effect for three (3) years from the date of its signature, unless the extended by mutual written agreement, or discontinued in accordance with paragraph 2

2. Either Party may terminate this MOU by giving three months' advance notice to the other Party. Such termination shall take effect as of the date specified in the termination notice, provided that the provisions contained herein shall remain in effect to the extent necessary to permit an orderly settlement of all arrangements made with respect to ongoing cooperation activities.


SECTION 16

CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION AND NOTICES

1. For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of this MOU, the channels of communication for the Parties shall be:
 - (a) *For Africa CDC:* Director General, Africa CDC
Office of the Director General
Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.
DGOffice@africacdc.org
Haile Garment, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 - (b) *For ECDC :* Director, ECDC
Gustav III:s Boulevard 40
16973 Solna, Sweden
2. Either Party may, by notice in writing to the other Party, designate additional representatives or substitute other focal points for those designated in this Section.
3. Any notice, request or other communication under this MOU shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given or made when it has been delivered by hand, mail, cable, telex, facsimile or e-mail, as the case may be, by either Party to the other at the address specified in the MOU or such other address as either Party may notify to the other Party.

SECTION 17

CHECKS AND AUDITS

1. The Internal Auditor of ECDC, the European Court of Auditors, the European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Public Prosecutor's Office have the right to perform any check or audit in accordance with relevant legislation and by taking due account of any bilateral Agreements between the European Anti-Fraud Office and the EU institutions, agencies and bodies concerned.
- 

2. In the spirit of good cooperation, the Parties will endeavour to facilitate any such checks or audits ECDC is subject to, through facilitating any necessary information exchange and, where appropriate and permissible, making available the results of the controls performed.

SECTION 18
LIMITATIONS TO THE COOPERATION AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

1. This MOU is intended to provide an overall framework for the Parties to explore collaborative activities and does not imply any obligation or commitment enforceable in the Courts of law.
2. Any differences arising out of the interpretation or application of this MoU shall be settled amicably through consultations or negotiations between the Parties and shall not be referred to any national or international tribunal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised for this purpose by the respective organisations, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed on behalf of the Parties at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on this 9 day of March 2026.

FOR THE AFRICA CDC  FOR ECDC 


H.E. DR JEAN KASEYA
DIRECTOR GENERAL
AFRICA CDC


DR PAMELA RENDI-WAGNER
DIRECTOR
ECDC