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**GBCHEALTH, ALIKO DANGOTE FOUNDATION AND UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
RELEASE PRELIMINARY REPORT CALLING FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT TO IMPROVE
AFRICA'S HEALTH AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Preliminary findings unveiled alongside United Nations General Assembly during high-level dialogue that convened African heads of state, corporate CEOs and NGO leaders to discuss health and financing in Africa

New York, NY – [GBCHealth](#), the [Aliko Dangote Foundation](#) and the [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#) (ECA) released [preliminary findings](#) on Thursday, September 27 from their forthcoming "Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa" report, calling for greater African private sector involvement and investment in healthcare. The preliminary report finds that neither government nor existing public-private partnerships are effective enough, and that existing PPPs disproportionately focus on a small number of countries. The preliminary report recommends a new model, one in which PPPs prioritize around the most significant disease burden and broaden their scope to benefit the health of the whole continent, which is deemed critical to driving long-term economic growth in Africa.

"The dialogue was a much-needed call-to-action for the African private sector as evidenced by the research," said **Aliko Dangote, President, Dangote Group & Chairman, Aliko Dangote Foundation**. "The best way to move Africa forward is for businesses to step up in health care and take bold action. We must work together, across industries and with governments and communities, to foster innovation and to drive more strategic investments that benefit us collectively."

GBCHealth, the Aliko Dangote Foundation and the ECA also gathered African heads of state, corporate CEOs, and heads of UN agencies on Thursday at the United Nations headquarters for a high-level dialogue to discuss the findings and reinforce the importance of greater African private sector involvement and investment in healthcare. The dialogue, moderated by journalist Isha Sesay, featured lively discussions from champions for multisector health partnerships in Africa. The discussions explored findings of ECA's research, Africa's health status, SDG's, public-private partnerships, health systems strengthening and health financing.

Following opening remarks from **Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Founder and Chair, African Initiative for Governance and Co -Chair, GBCHealth**, during which he recognized the group's collective goal to identify solutions for health and finance in Africa, **H.E. Faure Gnassingbé, President, Togolese Republic**, spoke about the healthcare situation in his country and the government's approach to public-private partnerships.



“In Togo, we passed on the responsibility of certain facilities, namely clinics, pharmacies and hospices, to specific private entities who manage them,” said **H.E. Faure Gnassingbé, President, Togolese Republic**. “We’re proud to say that public facilities are as efficient as private facilities, so we have gone on to create another category of facilities that are semi-private, semi-public. We hope that, with this initiative, we’ll be able to reach another level of efficiency.”

Ray Chambers, WHO Ambassador for Global Strategy and Board Member, GBCHealth, spoke about the need to be creative in terms of stretching private sector capital for advancing health and economic growth. “I’m very concerned as we sit here today, but heartened by the title of this dialogue, called Africa’s Health & Finance,” he said during the discussion. “I don’t think going forward that we can separate health from finance.”

Halima Dangote, Executive Director of Dangote Industries Limited, daughter of **Aliko Dangote, President, Dangote Group & Chairman, Aliko Dangote Foundation**, delivered remarks on her father’s behalf. In them, he discussed his motivation as a businessman and human being for improving the wellbeing and quality of life for people in Africa. He addressed the private sector’s unique capacity to mobilize its resources and innovation to strengthen health systems and save lives, and he called on continued and enhanced leadership from businesses on the issue. He also highlighted the importance of the new African Business Coalition for Health platform to help strategically mobilize private sector resources, expertise and innovation to strengthen health systems and save lives across the continent.

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, also joined the discussion. She spoke about the importance of unlocking and leveraging the tools the private sector has to deliver healthcare services through sustainable finance.

“Much of education and much of health is not in a bad place, it’s in crisis,” said **Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations**. “People are faced with choiceless choices, for instance, having to choose health or water. We need solid institutions to be able to deliver services.”

Other leaders, all of whom brought unique perspective from their experiences in African governments, NGOs and the private sector, each highlighted the importance of financing healthcare and promoting collaboration between the public and private sectors in order to find sustainable solutions.

Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, Ph.D., Former President of the Republic of Nigeria noted that there is a saying that Health is Wealth but that the saying is inadequate because ‘health is everything including wealth.

Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia noted that a country can’t industrialize without a healthy society and that we must stop looking at healthcare as a charitable cause, but as a profitable business that should be encouraged.



Patrick Khulekani Dlamini, CEO and Managing Director, Development Bank of Southern Africa talked about the evolution of 2G to 3G and now 4G on the continent saying that it is in Africa's hand and reach to leverage technology to leapfrog some of its healthcare needs.

The session, titled "Africa's Health and Financing: Pathways to Economic Growth and Prosperity," will inform revisions to the report ahead of its launch at the Africa Business: Health Forum in February 2019. Preliminary findings are summarized below and are available [here](#).

"African businesses and governments are realizing that investing in Africa's health is not only the right thing to do, but it's also good for business and for government," said **Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Founder and Chair, African Initiative for Governance and Co-Chair, GBCHealth**. "If we're able to galvanize a new era of cooperation and improve the overall well-being of this young, fast-growing continent, we'll create economic growth for all Africans."

"Africa's population bulge and its abundance of young people is a competitive asset," said **Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, UNECA**. "This asset, however, must not become a fiscal burden by crowding in private finance to sustainably share the cost of a healthy Africa."

Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa: Preliminary Findings

Preliminary findings from the forthcoming report "Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa" identify the importance of improving health to drive Africa's economic growth and the need for the private sector to play a significant role in improving Africa's health. Specifically, the report highlights:

- **Health affects economic growth.** There is considerable evidence that raising the health of a population increases labor productivity, reduces absenteeism at school and at work and lowers catastrophic expenses on healthcare. Further, there is a robust link between improved health outcomes and economic growth. For instance, improvements in life expectancy at birth, child mortality rates and maternal mortality rates are linked with growth in GDP per capita.
- **The private sector has an important role to play in health.** Additional support is needed, and governments do not have the capacity to do it on their own. On average, countries devote just six percent of their GDP to healthcare, much lower than in the U.S. and other OECD countries.
- **Current public-private partnerships in health can be more effective.** Existing public-private partnerships are disproportionately focused on a small number of countries – 10 out of Africa's 54 countries account for half of the current partnerships. Further, current public-private partnerships are not aligned with the countries' most pressing health problems and are not broad enough. Partnerships and solutions require a holistic approach that also addresses underfunded areas resulting in poor infrastructure, malnutrition and the lack of clean water. Other underfunded areas such as education, technology innovation, products and supply chain offer opportunities for business engagement and investment.

The forthcoming publication of the "Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa" report will launch and serve as the foundation of discussions at the **Africa Business: Health Forum** on February 12,



2019 in Addis Ababa on the margins of the African Union Summit. The Africa Business: Health Forum will also formally launch the [African Business Coalition for Health \(ABCHealth\)](#), a joint initiative of GBCHealth and the Aliko Dangote Foundation. ABCHealth aims to unlock synergies to help the private sector contribute more directly to meeting national and regional health goals in the context of SDG Agenda 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063 — and provides a platform that can help realize more strategic and collaborative partnerships, ultimately improving the standard of living, the quality of life, and the overall health and well-being of all Africans.

About GBCHealth

GBCHealth is dedicated to leveraging the resources and expertise of the private sector to meet today's most pressing health challenges. Founded in 2001, under the leadership of Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, GBCHealth has built a strong track record of mobilizing business action to address workplace and community health issues. Today, the organization works with a network of more than 300 organizations globally, and in Africa, to drive collective action in areas of greatest need.

Mr. Aig-Imoukhuede has served on the GBCHealth Board since 2011 and is widely recognized as a successful entrepreneur, business leader and proponent of corporate social responsibility in the African business community.

Website: www.gbchealth.org

About United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN) in 1958 as one of the UN's five regional commissions, the mandate of the UN Economic Commission for Africa ([ECA](#)) is to promote the economic and social development of its [member States](#), foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. The ECA is headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with offices in Rabat, Lusaka, Kigali, Niamey, Yaounde and Dakar.

More: www.uneca.org

Twitter: [@ECA_Official](https://twitter.com/ECA_Official)

About Aliko Dangote Foundation

Aliko Dangote Foundation is the private philanthropic foundation of Aliko Dangote, established with a mission to enhance opportunities for social change through strategic investments that improve health and wellbeing, promote quality education, and broaden economic empowerment opportunities. Dangote Foundation was incorporated in 1994 as a charity in Lagos, Nigeria. The Foundation has now become the largest private foundation in sub-Saharan Africa, with the largest endowment by a single African donor. The Foundation has contributed over \$250 million in charitable funds to several causes in Nigeria and Africa over the past four years. The activities of the Foundation revolve around the four pillars of health and nutrition, empowerment, education and humanitarian relief.

Aliko Dangote was named to the 2016 Forbes list of the world's top 100 most powerful people and is known for his commitments to health and development. He is the Founder, President/Chief Executive of the Dangote Group, the largest conglomerate in West Africa, based in Nigeria. The



Group, which has subsidiaries that cut across cement production, sugar refining and flour milling, is present in 17 other African countries. It has also diversified into other sectors including agriculture and energy, and is building the largest refinery, petrochemical and fertiliser complex in Africa. One of the Group's subsidiaries, Dangote Cement Plc, is the largest listed company in West Africa and the first Nigerian company to join the Forbes Global 2000 Companies list.

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Note to Editors:

The full list of leaders in attendance and involved at the September 27, 2018 event, held alongside the United Nations General Assembly to discuss the state of health and financing in Africa, is below.

Presenters and Discussants:

- Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Founder and Chair, African Initiative for Governance and Co - Chair, GBCHealth
- H.E. Faure Gnassingbé, President, Togolese Republic
- Mr. Aouele Eugene Aka, Minister of Health and Public Hygiene, Republic of Côte D'Ivoire
- Ray Chambers, WHO Ambassador for Global Strategy and Board Member, GBCHealth
- Halima Dangote, Executive Director of Dangote Industries Limited, on behalf of Aliko Dangote, President, Dangote Group & Chairman, Aliko Dangote Foundation
- Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations
- Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, UNECA
- Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia
- Saurabh Sinha, Technical Lead, UNECA, who presented the preliminary findings of the report

The High Table:

Public Sector:

- Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, Ph.D., Former President of the Republic of Nigeria
- Hon. Sicily Kariuki, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Republic of Kenya
- H.E. Hala Zaid, Minister of Health, Arab Republic of Egypt
- H.E Alfred Madigele, Minister of Health and Wellness, Republic of Botswana
- H.E Bogolo Kenewendo, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry for the Republic of Botswana

UN and Development Banks:

- Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior VP for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations & Partnerships, World Bank Group
- Patrick Khulekani Dlamini, CEO and Managing Director, Development Bank of Southern Africa
- Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, UNAIDS and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations



- Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Private Sector and Partners

- Jim Ovia, Chairperson, Zenith Bank
- Acha Leke, Chairman, McKinsey & Company
- Zouera Youssoufou, CEO, Aliko Dangote Foundation
- Nancy Wildfeir-Field, President, GBCHealth

