Digital Health Sans Borders
&
Geneva Declaration of Responsibility

Digital Health for Life

(A Recognized Side Event of the 78th World Health Assembly)

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DIGITAL HEALTH

SANS BORDERS

Geneva Declaration of Responsibility

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Digital Health for Life

Geneva, Switzerland | May 19, 2025

Preamble

We, the global stakeholders in healthcare;

Recognize that health is a universal human right and digital technologies offer a transformative opportunity to advance this right for all;

Recognize that we have made commendable progress in the past decades yet, the persistent and growing digital divide excludes billions - especially in the developing world;

Recognize that interventions at an early stage can save lives and prevent the burden of catastrophe health spending;

Acknowledge the urgent need for global solidarity, ethical leadership and collaboration to ensure that Digital Health is Responsible, Responsive, Equitable, Inclusive, Secure, and Culturally Sensitive;

As global stakeholders, through this framework, we reaffirm our collective responsibility to create a Borderless Future for Digital Health - where geography, socio-economic status, language, culture, and infrastructure no longer limit a person's right to seek appropriate care, furthering the vision of UN SDGs, the Global Digital Compact, Alma Ata and the Astana Declaration.

Our Responsibilities

1. Responsibility to Bridge the Digital Health Divide

We commit to advancing infrastructure, affordability, and literacy for Digital Health to ensure that every individual, regardless of who they are or where they live can receive healthcare services through Digital Health.

2. Responsibility to Promote Equity & Inclusivity in Innovation

We commit to promote, and support in offering, co-developing and scaling innovative Digital Health interventions with a special emphasis on the needs of the marginalized & vulnerable populations, as well as rural, conflict-affected geographies, and for low-resource settings, starting with primary care.

3. Responsibility to Foster Global Collaboration

We pledge to collaborate and support the development of open standards, ethical data-sharing frameworks, interoperable cross-border digital public infrastructure, multilingual platforms, and real-time mapping of Digital Health implementation. Ensure transparent and evidence-based informed decision-making, safe cross-border, seamless, and secure healthcare delivery to those in need. We recognize that fostering collaboration across borders will improve efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and scale up adoption, and lead to healthier populations.

4. Responsibility to Build Trust and Accountability

We commit to transparency, participatory design, and robust clinical governance in all Digital Health efforts and initiatives. We commit to ensure data privacy, security, and algorithmic fairness as non-negotiable foundations of Digital Health initiatives.

5. Responsibility to Accelerate Knowledge Sharing and Support Science-Informed Policy and Practice

We pledge to ground Digital Health decisions and implementations in the best available evidence, not only by using but also by generating, documenting, and sharing robust data on implementation, effectiveness, and impact through open platforms. We commit to strengthening the global Digital Health Knowledge Commons, co-develop data-driven guidelines, support the rapid translation of research into policy and frontline practice, and leverage living evidence portals. Through collaborative policy dialogues and transparent reporting, we aim to ensure continuous learning, science-based decision-making, and the scalable adoption of Digital Health solutions that deliver quality healthcare.

6. Responsibility to Build Sustainable and Locally Anchored Ecosystems

We recognize that lasting impact requires local ownership, context-specific adaptation, and capacity building. We will prioritize initiatives that foster local leadership, promote skills development, and connect community and country-level Digital Health initiatives to the global ecosystem.

7. Responsibility to Act with Urgency

We recognize the time-bound nature of our mission - to achieve 'Digital Health for All by 2030' with an overarching theme of 'Digital Health for Life' - and we pledge to engage governments, civil society, healthcare professionals, healthcare workers, academia, industry, youth, healthcare users and caregivers as co-creators and stewards of this vision.

Call to Action

In adopting this Geneva Declaration of Responsibility, we call upon:

- Multilateral organizations to prioritize Digital Health in development financing and Health Systems strengthening, and in creating an enabling framework for cross-border Digital Health;
- Governments to embed Digital Health equity in national policies, regulations and programs;
- Philanthropic and private sectors to prioritize and support inclusive innovation;
- Civil society to advocate for the voices of underserved populations;
- Academia, research institutions, and other stakeholders to collaborate, generate and share actionable evidence, best practices, and implementation guidance, leveraging open-access knowledge platforms and fostering communities of practice;
- Clinicians, healthcare professionals and organizations to 'Volunteer' their time and 'Expertise' through digital platforms.

We share the vision and values and join the 'Digital Health Sans Borders' movement — a not-for-profit initiative by endorsing this declaration. We commit to building a borderless Digital Health ecosystem with compassion and collaboration.

This Declaration was launched at the Digital Health Sans Borders event in Geneva on 19th May 2025, on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly

Foreword

There are moments in history when bold ideas meet urgent needs and something greater than a project begins. This was one of those moments.

During 78th World Health Assembly, a powerful truth echoed through the room: Over half of the world's health workforce stood represented. Not as individual titles, organizations, or borders, but as one unified voice calling for equity, dignity, and access in Digital Health. Together, we launched Digital Health Sans Borders—a global commitment.

This also marked the formal unveiling of the Geneva Declaration of Responsibility. It is more than a declaration, it is a shared promise. A promise that Digital Health will not stop at borders, and that where a life can be saved, it must be. That no community—whether in conflict, crisis, or quiet neglect, should be left behind because of the accident of geography. I have set the vision clear 'If you have internet, you should have health'.

For far too long, technology has traveled faster than equity. Innovation has bloomed in privileged centers while essential care has faltered in forgotten places. Digital Health Sans Borders challenges that imbalance. It says: if we have the tools to save lives, we must use them not someday, but now.

This movement is deeply personal. It is born not in theory, but in lived stories: a man carrying his niece's body through rural India; a mother in Malawi turned away from a locked clinic; a remote villager in Mongolia with only a broken thermometer. And alongside those stories, stories of hope: a life saved through a teleconsultation in Peru, a diagnosis made just in time in Syria, a chatbot guiding care in a war zone.

Digital Health Sans Borders is not powered by machines, it is powered by minds that imagine a better future, and hearts that refuse to accept injustice. It is backed by proof: hundreds of millions of teleconsultations, national digital health missions, and policy frameworks that show what's possible when determination meets scale.

But beyond the metrics is the mission: healthcare must be borderless, just as humanity is.

This movement is aligned with the very spirit of the Alma-Ata Declaration, which promised health for all. That promise remains unfulfilled. As we approach its 50th anniversary in 2028 — and no later than 2030, the target year for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals — we owe the world more than commemoration. We owe it action.

Foreword

To everyone who joined this launch, in person and virtually: thank you. You were invited to lead. You are already shaping the next chapter of global health.

And to the global community reading this: this report is not just a record of what happened in Geneva. It is an invitation to act, to collaborate, and to carry this movement forward. Whether you are a policymaker, provider, technologist, patient, or advocate, this is your moment too.

Let us be the generation that erased artificial boundaries in health.

With gratitude, purpose, and hope.

Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta
Founder
Digital Health Sans Borders

Acknowledgments

This milestone in global health collaboration would not have been possible without the unwavering support and collective vision of our partners, leaders, and community.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Alain Labrique, Director, Digital Health and Innovation, World Health Organization (WHO), for his steadfast support and visionary leadership. We are equally thankful to the dedicated team at WHO: Dr. Derrick Muneene, Unit Head, Digital Health Capacity Building and Collaboration; Mr. Sameer Pujari, Lead AI at WHO, Vice Chair AI 4 Health WHO ITU Focus Group, Digital Health & Innovation; Mr. Salim Azzabi Zouraq, Digital Health and Innovation Officer, and Mr. Pascoal Bento, Technical Officer (P3), Digital Health and Innovation initiative Unit, for their invaluable coordination and support throughout the planning and execution of this initiative.

Special thanks to Dr. Caroline Perrin, Executive Director and Dr. Sophie Delaigue, Digital Health Advisor of the Geneva Digital Health Hub (gdhub), whose generosity and guidance were instrumental in securing the venue at Campus Biotech and making this convening possible.

We deeply appreciate the organizations that have supported the Geneva Declaration of Responsibility, including Medical Students' Association of India (MSAI), Global Association of Indian Medical Students (GAIMS), Nishith Desai Associates, Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), Health Data Forum, and the International Council of Nurses (ICN). Their commitment to ethical, inclusive, and interoperable Digital Health systems has been vital to this movement.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the participants and speakers whose presence and contributions gave meaning to this gathering.

We want to separately mention our special heartfelt gratitude for Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO, and Prof. (Dr.) Thomas Zeltner, Chairman, WHO Foundation– both took out time to share their thoughts and have been the guiding light not just for this initiative, but always.

Special thanks to: Mr. Paul Sinclair, President, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP); Dr. Catherine Duggan, CEO, International Pharmaceutical Federation; Dr. Pamela F. Cipriano, President, International Council of Nurses (ICN); Dr. Christopher M. Kramer, President, The American College of Cardiology; Mr. Dino Cataldo Dell'Accio, CIO,

Acknowledgments

Introduction

In a world where technology can perform remote surgeries and predict diseases before symptoms appear, it is a moral tragedy that millions still die without access to basic healthcare advice. While innovation flourishes in the tech capitals of the world, vast regions of Africa, Asia, and Latin America remain digitally deserted. Today, half of the world's population still lacks access to essential health services. Every year, more than 8 million deaths occur due to conditions that could have been prevented or treated with timely care. The maturity of Digital Health, telemedicine, remote monitoring, AI diagnostics, SaMD, and DTx offer proven solutions.

Yet, these lifesaving innovations rarely reach the tearful eyes and grieving hearts of families in remote villages. On May 19, 2025 at Campus Biotech in Geneva, we unveiled the global project "Digital Health Sans Borders"—a landmark movement committed to ensuring "Equitable Digital Healthcare Access for All by 2028" - as we commemorate 50 years of the Alma-Ata Declaration. This is ideated by Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, and hosted through Health Parliament and Academy of Digital Health Sciences, in association with Geneva Digital Health Hub and Global Initiative on Digital Health (WHO Hosted Network).

First introduced at the Global Digital Health Summit 2022 as 'Digital Health for All by 2028', this has now culminated into a global call to action: "Digital Health must be universal, inclusive, and borderless." The launch included the unveiling of the "Geneva Declaration of Responsibility" and a high-level dialogue on Digital Health diplomacy, ethical data sharing, and cross-border collaboration for Digital Health as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Digital Public Good (DPG).

Digital Health Sans Borders is not just a campaign; it is a movement to democratize technology, to move beyond celebrations in urban towers, and to touch lives in forgotten corners. It calls upon the global community to share their excess capacities, their technologies, and their time with those who have none. Let us practice 'Digital Health for Life'.

No mother should have to watch her child die because the nearest doctor is a day's walk away. No elderly father should suffer silently because no advice reaches his village. We can bring smiles where there were tears, hope where there was despair, and life where there was loss. Together, by taking Digital Health across all borders, we can create a world where quality care reaches every soul—no matter how distant, no matter how remote. Through this campaign, we can turn the tide. Because in a connected world, no one should be left to suffer alone. The future of health is without borders, and it begins now.

Voices without Borders

As a recognized side event of the 78th World Health Assembly, the launch of Digital Health Sans Borders brought together a powerful coalition of global health leaders, policymakers, and practitioners committed to advancing Digital Health as a Digital Public Good.

This gathering convened international organizations and institutions representing over half of the world's health workforce. Participants included senior officials from WHO, UN agencies, OECD, ITU, and professional associations such as the ICN, FIP, IDF, and the American College of Cardiology.

This report documents the perspectives shared during the event, capturing the essence in "Voices without Borders." It offers a brief overview of each participant's contribution, highlighting shared priorities, regional insights, and collective commitments toward achieving equitable digital healthcare access.

Prof. (Dr.) Rajendra Pratap Gupta

Chairman, Health Parliament & International Patients' Union
Founder, Digital Health Sans Borders & Data First, AI Later

Today, as we launch Digital Health Sans Borders, I stand before you with a simple but powerful message: technology must serve life and save lives across all borders. Digital Health should not be limited by geography; it must reach from the tech hubs to the village huts. This is not a movement of machines, but of hearts and minds. Whether you're born in Geneva or Goma, you deserve the same chance to live, heal, and be healthy. We have proven this is possible. India's Digital Health mission, with over 777 million IDs and 373 million teleconsultations, shows that scale and impact are achievable.

We are building a global movement to erase artificial barriers in healthcare through responsible, inclusive technology. Lives are still being lost to preventable causes, something Digital Health can change if we act now. Let's bridge the gap between access and care, privilege and need, hope and healing. This is a Geneva declaration of responsibility and each of us here carries that responsibility.

"Borders should not determine who will receive health. It should be without borders. But Digital Health can only save lives when it crosses borders."

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director-General, World Health Organization

Digital Health is not just about tools, it's about transforming health systems to serve people better, more fairly, and with greater care. When done right, digital systems ensure health workers are paid, patients carry their records across borders, and governments can deliver care efficiently and equitably. But real progress requires more than innovation. It demands strong country leadership, trusted governance, and alignment among partners and policies.

Since 2020, we've made important strides: 129 countries now have Digital Health Strategies, and 1.8 billion people can access their records securely. WHO is supporting countries to build resilient, inclusive, and interoperable systems grounded in ethics, trust, and national priorities. Our collective goal is simple and urgent—ensure Digital Health leaves no one behind.

"The only digital transformation worth pursuing is one that leaves no one behind."

Prof. (Dr.) Thomas Zeltner

Chairman, WHO Foundation

I fully support Dr. Tedros's call and commend everyone involved in this important initiative. It's time to overcome the Digital Health divide. Everyone on this planet should have the right to Digital Health, and the ambitious goal of achieving this by 2028 is one we must strive for.

While 5.5 billion people already have mobile phones, signaling a great level of connectivity, we must still address access challenges for the elderly, support young people adapting to mobile technology, and provide effective digital support for healthcare workers in rural areas amid shifting demographics with a growing elderly population and fewer young caregivers.

Getting healthcare reforms right requires three essential elements: strong technical solutions, a clear understanding of political processes, and a deep respect for values. Technology alone is not enough. We are on a vital path to create a social movement that builds political will nationally and globally, recognizing Digital Health Sans Borders as a crucial initiative. Most importantly, we must defend health and Digital Health as fundamental human rights. In a world where nationalism threatens solidarity, we must fight for global unity. If we align technology, politics, and values, success is within reach.

"The value we are defending here is that health and Digital Health is a human right. Digital equity is a human right, and we have to defend that."

Dr. Catherine Duggan

Chief Executive Officer, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

It is a true honor to join the launch of Digital Health Sans Borders, a bold movement calling for equitable digital healthcare for all by 2028, marking a milestone as we approach 50 years since Alma-Ata. Representing the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and over 4 million pharmacy professionals worldwide, I emphasize that health and pharmacy must not stop at borders. Yet, 4.5 billion people remain digitally disconnected from the benefits of modern healthcare technology. This movement is the urgent call we need to close that gap and ensure technology reaches those who need it most, safely and equitably.

Pharmacists are at the frontline of Digital Health transformation, extending care beyond physical walls through telehealth and digital tools that improve medication adherence and reduce errors, ultimately saving lives. FIP is committed to advancing Digital Health through policy, education, and innovation, addressing challenges like digital literacy, governance, and inequity in access. We call on governments and health leaders to recognize pharmacists as essential Digital Health providers and to invest in infrastructure, workforce upskilling, and governance frameworks that ensure safe, inclusive, and cross-border pharmaceutical care. Together, with shared accountability as emphasized in the Geneva Declaration of Responsibility, we can make Digital Health just, universal, and borderless.

"Digital Health must be just, universal, and borderless. Let us seize this opportunity to ensure no patient is left behind, no community is excluded, and that every person can access the pharmaceutical care they deserve—wherever they are in the world."

Mr. Dino Cataldo Dell'Accio

Chief Information Officer,
United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF)

I'm grateful to be part of this distinguished panel and this important initiative. While I'm not a health professional, my expertise in data security and digital identity management at the United Nations has shown me that the challenges we face with digital data—whether in health, finance, or peacekeeping—are fundamentally the same. Technologies like blockchain, biometrics, artificial intelligence, and soon quantum computing hold immense promise for Digital Health by enabling secure, transparent, and accurate management of health information. For example, blockchain can create secure health records, biometrics can ensure correct patient identification, and AI can help healthcare systems become proactive rather than reactive.

However, the greatest challenge is the lack of mature, universally accepted operational standards to guarantee that these technologies are used ethically and responsibly. Although ethical principles exist, we lack practical parameters for technologies such as blockchain and biometrics to demonstrate transparency and explainability in their real-world use. These technologies increasingly converge and interact on complex platforms, so it's essential that experts across sectors collaborate closely—not just agree on high-level principles but actively develop shared standards. This cooperation is critical to uphold the vision of responsible Digital Health that the Geneva Declaration of Responsibility calls for, ensuring digital data's ethical use and building global trust.

> *"We must work together—not just embrace principles at a high level, but join forces to develop standards and parameters that prove whether, how, and when the responsible, ethical use of technology is put into practice."*

Mr. Markus Kummer

Chairman Emeritus,
Internet Governance Forum Support Association
(IGFSA) Executive Committee

It is a great honor to join this important initiative. While my background is in diplomacy and internet governance rather than health, I see Digital Health Without Borders as a natural extension of the Internet's borderless nature. The Internet's global reach contrasts with the world's geopolitical boundaries, creating tensions that we must carefully navigate, especially regarding information exchange and intellectual property rights. The principle of universal access to information, as enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is deeply relevant to Digital Health and aligns closely with the goals of this movement. I strongly support the effort to build a framework that ensures Digital Health for all without frontiers.

> *"The Internet is, by nature, a borderless technology. The right to freedom of expression and access to information 'regardless of frontiers' is deeply relevant to Digital Health."*

Mr. Hani Eskandar

Head of Digital Services Division,
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

For too long, Digital Health has been locked into fragmented boxes: narrow solutions, siloed data, and heavy reliance on foreign aid and international expertise. This has held back true scale and local ownership. The concept of Digital Health Sans Borders resonates deeply with me because it embodies sovereignty, the freedom for countries to own their Digital Health systems and the knowledge behind them.

It's time to move beyond exporting technologies to sharing knowledge, enabling countries to build interoperable, outcome-driven Digital Health solutions themselves. By developing open reference architectures, blueprints, and embracing new tools like AI-powered low-code platforms, we can democratize Digital Health development and restore control to the people and countries we serve. This shift is not just technical; it is a moral responsibility reflected in the Geneva Declaration of Responsibility, to foster knowledge-based sovereignty and enable countries to graduate from aid dependency toward true autonomy.

"The concept of 'Sans Borders' is basically about being sovereign.
It's about being free. It's about being non-dependent.
It's almost like a bird using its wings to fly."

Dr. Prateek Sharma

President, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

I am honored to represent gastroenterologists and endoscopists worldwide in supporting the movement around Digital Health Without Borders. This initiative is not merely about technology, but fundamentally about ensuring equitable access to high-quality, personalized healthcare— whether patients live in urban centers or rural, underserved areas. Digital Health has already transformed our field, enabling early cancer detection through AI-assisted endoscopy and remote consultations, even during the COVID pandemic. Our American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy has launched the AI Institute for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy to advance education, advocacy, clinical practice, and ethical standards globally.

We are committed to training physicians in low-resource settings and promoting frameworks for responsible AI use and patient privacy. We also actively engage with U.S. policymakers to develop comprehensive AI healthcare policies. The Digital Health Sans Borders initiative is essential to ensuring these technologies help close healthcare gaps worldwide.

"This is not just about technology, but ultimately about access."

Prof. S. Yunkap Kwankam

Executive Director, International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth, Switzerland

The whole world is going digital, and health is no exception. Every health initiative should include a section on digital technology implications. Decades ago, an environmental impact assessment was a "sine-qua-non" for every project or initiative. And that has served the cause of the environment very well. More recently good governance has become a required consideration. Today, digital technology implications should be an indispensable component of every health-sector initiative. And in the next iteration of the Global Digital Health strategy, we suggest that AI and other fourth industrial revolution (4IR) technologies need to be part of the equation.

"The whole world is going digital, and health is no exception. Every health initiative should include a section on digital technology implications."

Dr. Lars Lindsköld

President, European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI)

In my experience, we often work vertically within silos, whether in our countries, organizations, or offices, while digital technologies naturally operate horizontally, crossing these boundaries. This creates challenges in understanding which rules or laws apply and how to collaborate effectively on a global scale. I believe establishing common standards, especially in healthcare, is achievable and essential to harness the benefits of Digital Health worldwide.

Artificial Intelligence, or AI, has been a particularly challenging concept. Initially, I thought of AI as "Additional Information," something that could complement existing knowledge within our vertical silos. More recently, I see AI as "Augmented Information," empowering patients and healthcare providers by enhancing access to data and insights. However, AI might also become "Augmented Influencers," as new forces seek to shape decisions and behaviors. This raises critical questions about sovereignty, integrity, and who will hold influence in the future —researchers, organizations, or powerful platforms.

> *"Over the years, one thing I've learned is that we tend to operate vertically—within our own silos, institutions, sectors, and even national borders. We build structures that function within those bounds. However, the digital revolution doesn't respect these borders. Digital technologies move horizontally, cutting across domains, jurisdictions, and conventional structures."*

Prof. (Dr.) Peter Schwarz

President, International Diabetes Federation

I am the President of the International Diabetes Federation, representing 256 member organizations and acting on behalf of over 800 million people living with diabetes worldwide. One of the biggest challenges we face today is digitalization in healthcare. I firmly believe digital tools like smart health, mobile health, blockchain are disruptive forces that can significantly improve healthcare accessibility and availability globally. Through initiatives like the IDF School of Diabetes, we have already trained over 100,000 healthcare professionals, especially in Southeast Asia and Africa, showing how digitalization can enhance education and care delivery. Yet, true disruption goes beyond teleconsultation, which merely extends traditional care. The real power is that healthcare now lives "in the pocket" of our patients, through their smartphones, enabling us to influence daily lifestyle decisions with the right messaging at the right time. This is a revolutionary way to rethink how we deliver healthcare.

Looking ahead, the next frontier is digital biomarkers—data collected passively from smartphones that can predict risks of diabetes, depression, and other chronic diseases well before clinical symptoms appear. For example, analyzing online shopping behavior can reveal early signs of hyperglycemia months in advance. While this challenges traditional healthcare norms, we must embrace it and integrate these insights into clinical guidelines to improve early diagnosis and prevention.

This digital transformation demands that we break down the borders in our minds and across professions, including pharmacists and community health workers, who all have crucial roles. Waiting until 2028 is too late. Digital Health without borders must be implemented today, leveraging all our creativity and commitment to transform chronic disease care worldwide. This call to action aligns deeply with the goals of Digital Health Sans Borders.

> *"We have never been so close to our patient than being in the pocket. But being in the pocket means we have to rethink our ways to deliver healthcare."*

Dr. Steve MacFeely

Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics & Data Directorate, OECD

Disease transmission knows no borders, and trying to limit health responses within man-made or administrative boundaries is futile. This reality demands multilateral approaches to health. The same holds true for digital data, an essential, globalized resource that transcends national sovereignty. That's why we urgently need an international data governance framework to guide how digital data is shared, governed, and used. Digital data fuel Digital Health and underpin artificial intelligence, but without good quality data, solid infrastructure, and trustworthy governance, Digital Health cannot fulfill its promise.

Digital Health Sans Borders offers a powerful opportunity to break not only geographic but also sectoral boundaries, since many health determinants lie outside traditional healthcare sectors. To succeed, we need shared data infrastructure that respects privacy, culture, and equitable benefit sharing. If we fail to build this foundation, exploitation will follow. Progress confined within isolated national or sectoral borders wastes time and resources and ultimately fails. Therefore, I am proud to support both Digital Data Sans Borders and Digital Health Sans Borders as crucial movements for advancing global health together.

"Digital data are a globalized resource. They're easily shared, duplicated, traded, and exchanged. Digital data transcend borders and challenge very comforting notions of national sovereignty."

Prof. K. Srinath Reddy

Founding President, Public Health Foundation of India

Digital Health holds transformative potential across multiple areas from advancing knowledge integration across diverse disciplines to improving patient care and public health on a broad scale. It enables us to combine insights from molecules to markets and to better understand the complex interactions of genetics, environment, and social determinants that influence health and disease. India's rich diversity exemplifies how harnessing varied gene pools, dietary patterns, and health systems through Digital Health can democratize science and benefit global humanity.

Moreover, Digital Health empowers individuals, communities, and a wide range of healthcare providers, fostering teamwork that is essential for high-quality health services. To unlock its full potential, we must build digital comfort and confidence across all populations and guard against digital hyper-nationalism that threatens to create proprietary barriers. Importantly, the vision extends beyond "Digital Health Sans Borders" between countries to also breaking down "Digital Health Sans Barriers" within countries eliminating divisions among care levels, provider types, and health systems through timely digital adoption. What we need is a fusion of vision, values, and vigor to propel Digital Health to new frontiers.

"It's not just Digital Health Sans Borders across countries, but it's also Digital Health Sans Barriers within countries."

Dr. Peter Preziosi

President and CEO, TruMerit (formerly CGFNS International)

As the leader of True Merit, a global organization that credentials migrating health professionals, I recognize the urgent need to upskill the global health workforce—not just to support migration but to empower nurses, community health workers, and allied professionals wherever they serve. We are addressing growing inequities linked to Digital Health adoption by developing point-of-care digital tools that enhance frontline care delivery.

In rural Rwanda, we equipped nurses running health posts with MedWand, a remote monitoring device that enables them to perform vital examinations like lung auscultation, heart rate, oximetry, and ECGs. This technology has increased nurses' confidence, improved patient evaluations, and reduced costly travel for patients seeking care in cities. Encouraged by this success, we are expanding similar projects to Bolivia, Guatemala, and Ghana, where AI-powered sonograms help midwives and physicians detect early cardiovascular diseases and prevent maternal deaths.

"Nurses have a lot more confidence in the evaluations they're providing because they have a better tool available to them."

Dr. Dale Alverson

Chair, ATA Global Health Collaborative

With over 30 years of experience in telemedicine and Digital Health, I believe now more than ever, we must work together to build an international telehealth and Digital Health network. Such collaboration enables us to share knowledge, expertise, and innovations to address urgent global health challenges ranging from infectious diseases like COVID-19 to the rising burden of chronic illnesses worldwide. These networks also strengthen preparedness for natural and man-made disasters and foster collaborative research and technology integration, including remote patient monitoring and AI.

The concept of "Digital Health Sans Borders" deeply resonates with me, inspired by the universal ideal that "all mankind are citizens." This vision empowers us to transcend political and geographic barriers, working much like Médecins Sans Frontières, to provide critical support and consultation where it is most needed through secure telemedicine platforms. Together, by joining forces with like-minded organizations and committing to shared goals, we have a tremendous opportunity to improve health outcomes globally.

"As citizens of the world, we all share common desires and concerns, hoping for a good quality of life and health for ourselves, our families, and those we serve."

Dr. Pamela F. Cipriano

President, International Council of Nurses (ICN)

It's truly a pleasure to be part of this vital conversation on "Digital Health Sans Borders." Digital Health is a transformative force that can revolutionize healthcare globally and serve as a shortcut toward achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), especially in low- and lower-middle-income countries that have the opportunity to leapfrog outdated models. Technology is becoming more affordable and accessible, democratizing healthcare by connecting patients with providers and community resources. This shift brings care closer to people and empowers individuals while making healthcare delivery more efficient and cost-effective.

Nurses play a pivotal, yet often underrecognized, role in this Digital Health transformation. They operate at the intersection of technical and social systems, understanding patients' living conditions and ensuring digital literacy for both providers and communities. Nurses are innovators, developing technologies and applications that expand access to care across diverse populations and settings—from acute care to community outreach. Nurses are eager and ready to lead in data-driven healthcare and digital innovation.

Their leadership and involvement are critical for aligning Digital Health tools with patient safety, health equity, and community needs.

Digital Health is not just about crossing borders between countries but also about breaking down barriers within healthcare systems to improve prevention, early detection, and patient-centered care. By enabling nurses and communities with the right digital tools and literacy, we can collectively accelerate progress toward universal health coverage and build resilient, connected healthcare ecosystems.

"Nurses have a critical role to play not only in the transformation of healthcare and Digital Health, but in really redefining how we work together within our communities, how we push together for achieving universal health coverage across that continuum."

Mr. Amitabh Nag

CEO, Digital India Bhashini Division; Director of India Dataset Platform (Alkosh) & Application Development Initiative, IndiaAI, GOI

It is a privilege to share how India is harnessing multilingual AI technologies to overcome language barriers in healthcare, truly embodying the vision of Digital Health Sans Borders. Through the Bhashini program, we have developed capabilities in automatic speech recognition, text-to-text translation, text-to-speech, and digitizing printed text across dozens of Indian languages. These technologies enable vital applications such as multilingual patient-doctor consultations on platforms like eSanjeevani, which has facilitated over a billion consultations by allowing patients and doctors to communicate seamlessly despite language differences. This not only improves healthcare access but also boosts productivity by automating documentation, including electronic health records and discharge reports.

Our efforts extend beyond language translation to addressing the digital divide through voice-based information dissemination systems, such as Audiopedia, which supports maternal and child health with accessible health education. We are also innovating in data capture, enabling nurses and health workers to record critical information like birth data via voice commands, bridging gaps in digital literacy and infrastructure.

As Digital Health increasingly becomes borderless, these AI-driven communication tools ensure that healthcare providers and patients, regardless of language or literacy, can connect and collaborate effectively. We look forward to further collaboration across borders to enhance Digital Health ecosystems worldwide.

"As we become borderless in digital healthcare, each one of us is supposed to understand the other person. Hence, the AI models which are coming up now allow communication between doctor and patient, doctors and doctors, and dissemination to others in the healthcare domain."

Dr. Ricardo Baptista Leite

CEO, HealthAI – The Global Agency for Responsible AI in Health; Founder and President, UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health

As the head of a global agency for responsible AI in health, I work with governments to move beyond AI pilot projects and toward systemic transformation, where equity is at the center. Around the world, we see growing excitement about AI but too often, its adoption is driven by hype rather than purpose. AI must not be used to reinforce broken healthcare models that focus only on disease and reactiveness. Instead, it must be a catalyst to rethink our systems, to shift from disease care to true healthcare, prioritizing prevention, health promotion, and citizen well-being. If we continue using AI to accelerate the current models, universal health coverage will remain a utopia.

The real opportunity lies in using AI to harness the 60% of health determinants that our systems often ignore—social, environmental, and commercial factors. But to do that, we must embed AI in workflows meaningfully, design user-centric systems, and most importantly, build trust. Trust, like with any major technology, be it elevators or medicine, requires transparency, governance, and human involvement. Our community of practice now includes 25 governments and over 260 institutions, working together to ensure AI in health serves everyone, not just the privileged. That is why I support Digital Health Sans Borders and sign declarations like the Geneva Declaration of Responsibility, because building inclusive, trustworthy health systems demands collective action.

Mr. Paul Sinclair

President, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

As a pharmacist with 35 years of experience and a representative of FIP, I've seen firsthand how traditional professional boundaries in healthcare, especially in pharmacy, are dissolving. Today, pharmacists work not only in pharmacies but also in nursing homes, doctors' clinics, and other non-traditional settings. This shift aligns perfectly with the spirit of Digital Health Sans Borders, as digital technologies now enable us to rethink access and roles in healthcare. Pharmacists and nurses are among the most accessible primary care providers, and Digital Health must be used to better leverage their expertise for stronger, more equitable community care.

At FIP, we are proactively driving digital transformation through our Technology Advisory Group and global initiatives like our annual Digital Health Summit. We're restructuring internally to break down silos among pharmacy scientists, educators, and practitioners because quality practice depends on an integrated approach. Digital enablement is not just a tool; it's a pathway to enhance collaboration, break down barriers, and empower younger pharmacists to become full-spectrum healthcare providers. That is why FIP fully supports the Geneva Declaration of Responsibility, and we see this as a defining moment for pharmacy's role in the digital health era.

"I encourage younger pharmacists now to think about being healthcare professionals rather than just being medicine providers."

Dr. Caroline Perrin

Executive Director, Geneva Digital Health Hub (gdhub)

It's a privilege to contribute to the launch of the Geneva Declaration of Responsibility, which aligns deeply with the core mission of our work at gdhub. With over 20 years of experience implementing Digital Health in diverse contexts, we've learned that digital solutions can transform healthcare but only if they are inclusive, sustainable, and evidence-based. Too often, Digital Health efforts are fragmented, unsupported, or unevaluated, and that leads to lost knowledge and even unintentional harm. That's why we're committed to bridging the gap between grassroots implementation and high-level policymaking because both perspectives are essential for success.

At gdhub, we believe in building bridges: between implementers and decision-makers, across borders and communities, and between ambition and accountability. Our work on the Implementome, which now hosts WHO's Digital Health Atlas, exemplifies this spirit offering a multilingual, open-access platform to map global Digital Health implementations. This kind of transparency allows us to learn in real time and scale only what truly works. As part of this mission, we stand behind the Geneva Declaration, because it is a call to develop Digital Health thoughtfully, ethically, and together.

"Digital Health can't scale if we don't know what works and what doesn't work."

Dr. Pramendra Prasad Gupta

President Elect, WONCA South Asia Region (SAR)

As a family physician working in rural Nepal, I see firsthand how Digital Health transforms lives. With support from the Geneva Digital Health Hub, we are delivering telemedicine to underserved communities in eastern Nepal, where poverty, poor transportation, and geography limit access to healthcare. We're also training local providers to manage chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension, while researching gender disparities in Digital Health access. Many women who previously had no access to care are now receiving treatment in their own communities. This is the power of inclusive, localized innovation.

Digital Health must be universal, inclusive, and borderless—a vision that is not just aspirational but ethically imperative. These three principles must coexist: without inclusivity, universality fails the marginalized; without universality, innovations stay limited in scope; and without ethical governance, borderless systems can deepen inequity. I call on all stakeholders—governments, industry, academia, and civil society to collaborate on building the infrastructure, standards, and regulations to realize this vision. Through human-centered design, political will, and global solidarity, we can make Digital Health a force for dignity, rights, and equity for all.

"Digital Health must be universal, inclusive, and borderless. This is not just an aspirational statement, but an urgent call to action."

Ms. Sharon Allen

Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer, World Telehealth Initiative

As CEO of the World Telehealth Initiative, I witness every day how telehealth can connect skilled medical professionals to resource-limited settings across the globe. Our work proves that geography should not determine access to care but what we do today at a small scale must become universal. Digital Health must be not just innovative, but inclusive, equitable, and borderless, designed to reach those most often left behind, not just the easy-to-reach.

I'm proud to have collaborated with the WHO, Geneva Digital Health Hub, WTO, and World Bank on the Cross-Border Telehealth Practice Policy Considerations report. This initiative outlines how to overcome regulatory, licensing, reimbursement, and infrastructure barriers to safely and ethically scale Digital Health across borders. Digital Health without Borders means shared impact, collective will, and above all, equitable access.

By 2028, our success must be measured not by platforms built—but by lives touched across every region and every border.

"Digital Health without Borders must mean: not just access, but equitable access; not just innovation, but shared impact; not just ambition, but collective will."

Mr. Sameer Pujari

Lead AI at WHO; Vice Chair, AI 4 Health WHO ITU Focus Group, Digital Health & Innovation, World Health Organization

I believe the time for discussion has passed—it's time for action. AI and Digital Health are already here, and if we truly want Digital Health without borders, we must break down not only geographical barriers but also professional and technological ones. Interoperability is critical; we cannot afford fragmented systems that don't communicate. I challenge this group, inspired by Rajendra's leadership, to identify concrete actions: to unite, create measurable impact, and showcase real-life improvements like ensuring a child no longer has to be physically carried long distances for care thanks to AI-powered virtual health solutions.

AI should not be seen as a luxury for the wealthy—it must be affordable and accessible to the poorest communities. For example, AI-driven cervical cancer screening has the potential to reduce treatment costs from hundreds of dollars to just a few, making a life-saving difference in rural Africa. I urge us all to deliver tangible results within the next year and prove that our collaboration changes lives through technology. I welcome partnerships and am ready to contribute through the Global Initiative on AI for Health, which already involves over 500 partners working on practical AI applications, governance, and ethics.

"AI is often perceived as a technology of the rich and that is what we want to change entirely here."

Dr. Huda Eldosougi

Founder & CEO, SAHATI TeleHealth Program for Vulnerable Populations

I want to highlight the crucial role of Digital Health in conflict zones, drawing from my hands-on experience in Sudan. During the war, when up to 70% of hospitals were destroyed and healthcare workers were under threat, digital platforms like Sahati.ai enabled over 200 diaspora doctors across 20 specialties to provide free remote care to more than 110,000 patients. This digital care was often the only option to support women facing trauma, maternal emergencies, and surgical needs, sometimes guiding local helpers in life-saving interventions. Contrary to common assumptions, the biggest barrier wasn't infrastructure but awareness among patients and providers that Digital Health can save lives, especially where physical clinical care is impossible.

Digital Health must be recognized as a basic pillar of health systems globally, especially in low and middle-income countries and conflict-affected regions. Despite partnerships with WHO and UNICEF, Digital Health remains under-prioritized and underfunded, which is a myth we need to eradicate. Just as essential medicines are prioritized, funding and governance should ensure Digital Health tools receive their rightful place and budget within health systems. Moreover, cross-border governance challenges such as inconsistent policies and data privacy standards must be addressed collectively, with calls to adopt patient-centered frameworks like GDPR as default in areas lacking regulation, to enable accountability and protect patient rights.

"Holding back Digital Health from those who need it most is like having penicillin and refusing to give it to everyone who needs it. We simply cannot allow that to happen."

Dr. Hassan Ghazal

President, Moroccan Society for Telemedicine and eHealth

I'm honored to share my perspective on this vital initiative. When I saw the word "borders," it immediately made me reflect on how we should approach cross-border Digital Health—not by focusing on borders, but by removing them entirely. True progress means envisioning a world where Digital Health transcends all barriers, creating a seamless and inclusive system of care accessible to everyone, everywhere.

While technical challenges in Digital Health are evolving rapidly and becoming more manageable, the real hurdles lie in financial, social, and regulatory realms. Yet, in today's digital age, traditional borders are increasingly irrelevant. As the French phrase "sans frontières" suggests, Digital Health must embrace the idea of being "without borders," allowing technology to act as a catalyst for universal healthcare access.

"Instead of focusing on borders, I believe we should think about removing these borders."

Mr. Salim Azzabi Zouraq

Digital Health and Innovation Officer, World Health Organization

I believe the core of what we're building here is connection because no one can advance Digital Health alone. We must bridge the gaps between people, organizations, and countries to ensure real progress happens. That's why initiatives like the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) are so vital. It's a "network of networks," designed to bring together diverse stakeholders working towards common goals.

One powerful tool within the GIDH is the Digital Health Atlas, which helps us map and understand Digital Health solutions across different regions and clinics. My hope is that by the next gathering, we will have even more collaboration, innovations, and shared successes to showcase. This collective effort is essential to drive forward the vision of Digital Health Sans Borders.

"We need to bridge the gaps between us and make sure things actually happen."

Mr. Pascoal Bento

Technical Officer (P3), Digital Health and Innovation initiative Unit, World Health Organization

I want to express my deep gratitude to Professor Rajendra, whose unwavering support since 2019 has been instrumental in advancing our Department of Digital Health Innovation's work. Our close collaboration with the University of Geneva, a WHO Collaborating Center, strengthens our efforts in telehealth training and capacity-building. Together, through the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH)—a WHO hosted network—we unite diverse actors to align political, financial, and programmatic efforts toward a shared digital health vision.

The GIDH fosters collaboration by bringing partners together, as seen in our convening workshops, which help us identify priority actions, refine the global Digital Health strategy, and map sustainable, country-led digital transformation pathways. This initiative, closely connected to Professor Rajendra's work, aims to amplify our collective impact by speaking with one common voice to serve end users and member states effectively.

"WHO believes in leaving no one behind, but we cannot work alone. We are all in this together, and your presence here is very much welcomed and appreciated."

Vote of Thanks

Ms. Mevish P. Vaishnav

President, Health Parliament & Academy of Digital Health Sciences

I am honored to express my deepest gratitude to all the distinguished speakers, global health leaders, and policy champions who have joined us in launching Digital Health Sans Borders and unveiling the Geneva Declaration of Responsibility in Digital Health. This historic event reflects our shared commitment to a future where no one is left behind in the Digital Health revolution. I also want to thank our collaborators, partner institutions, and advisory boards, especially Dr. Tedros and the WHO team, gdhub, Dr. Caroline, Dr. Sophie, and the Campus Biotech for hosting us at a venue where science, diplomacy, and innovation come together. This movement owes much to the visionary leadership of Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta and the dedicated efforts of my team at the Academy of Digital Health Sciences and Health Parliament.

The Geneva Declaration of Responsibility stands as a moral compass for Digital Health governance, calling on the world to shift from innovation for profits to innovation for people. This declaration honors the tireless work of frontline workers, Digital Health innovators, patient advocates, and the millions in underserved regions whose voices have too often gone unheard. Their stories now resonate powerfully within this movement, inspiring us all to work towards inclusive, equitable, and interoperable Digital Health systems.

As we move forward, I remind everyone that today marks not an end but a beginning, the start of a collective journey toward Digital Health for All by 2030. Together, we must carry this torch with responsibility, compassion, and unwavering resolve to create a truly global, digital, and equitable future in healthcare.

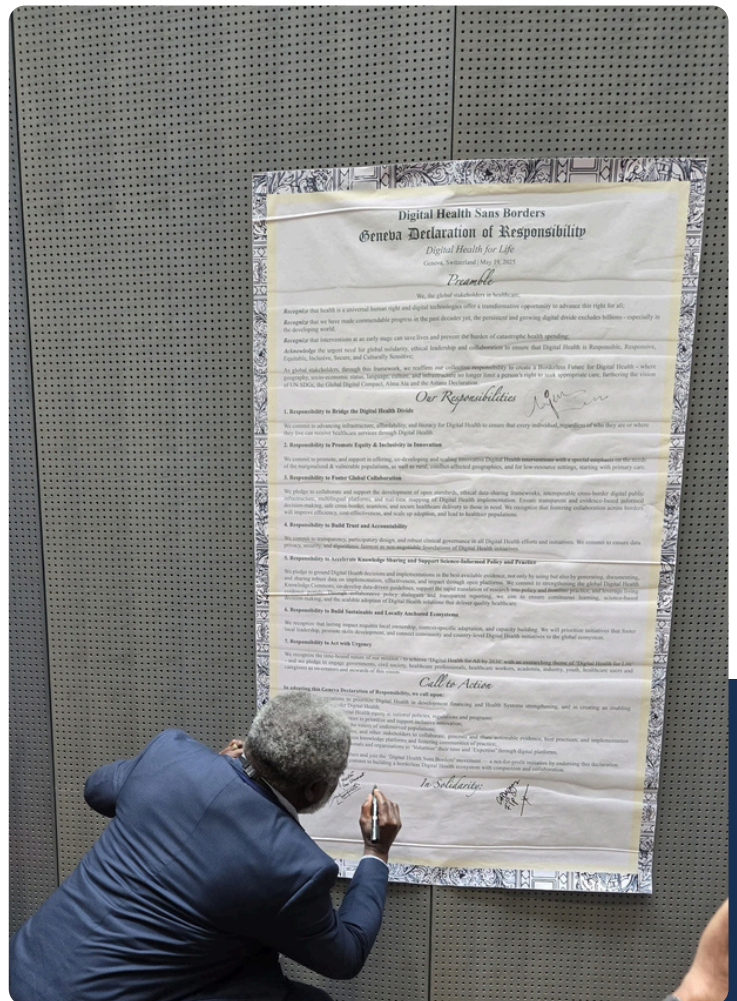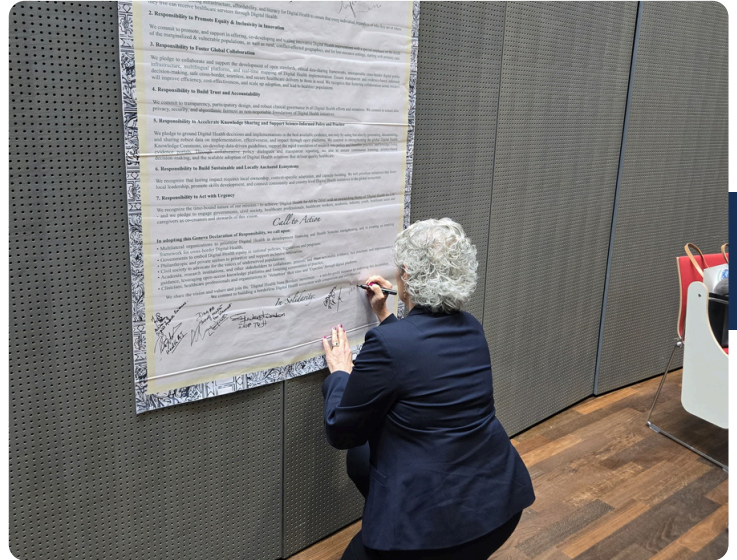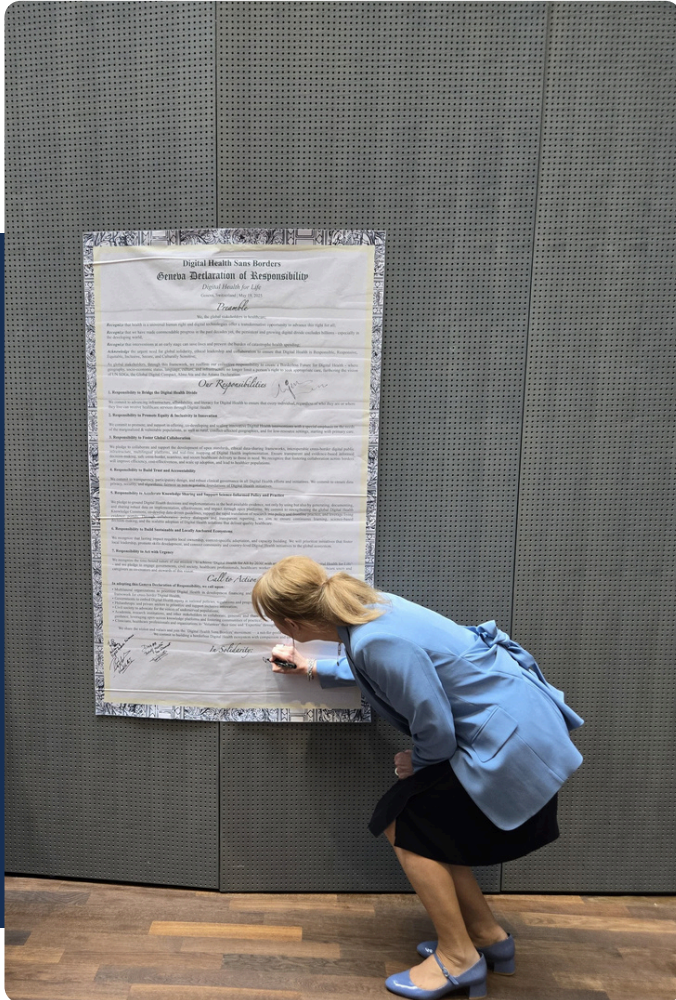*"The Geneva Declaration of Responsibility now forms a moral compass for Digital Health governance, urging the world to move from innovation for profits to innovation for people."*

Geneva Declaration of Responsibility

Signed by

GAIMS — Global Association of Indian Medical Students

MSAI — Medical Students' Association of India

Academy of Digital Health Sciences

Health Data Forum

ICN — International Council of Nurses

Health Parliament — Real Work | Great Leaders | Right Policies

fip

Nishith Desai Associates — Legal and Tax Counseling Worldwide

gdhub — Geneva Digital Health Hub

GIDH — Global Initiative on Digital Health
WHO Hosted Network
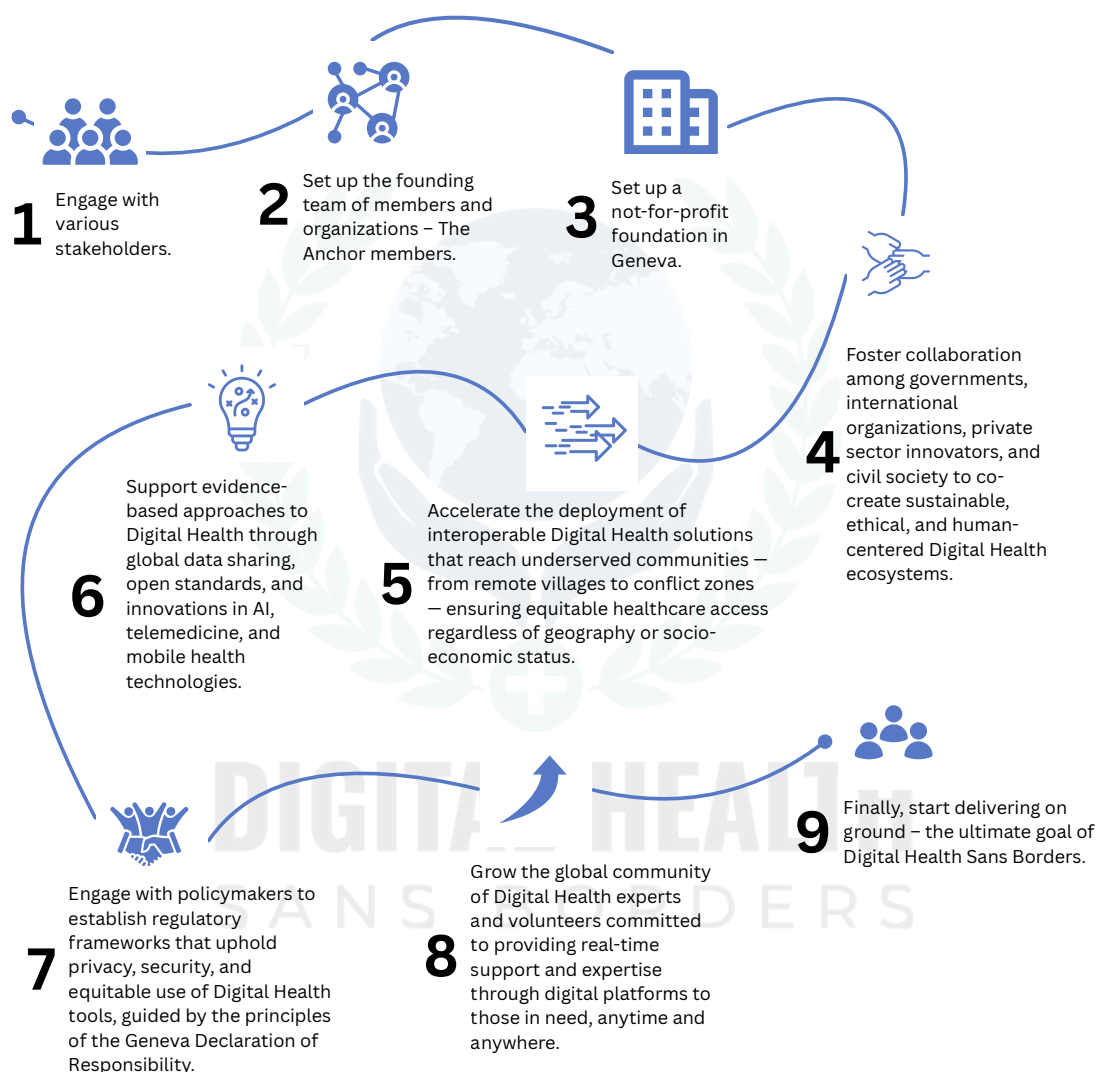

ISfTeH — International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth

Future Plan

Building on the momentum of this landmark launch, our future plan focus on expanding and deepening the impact of Digital Health Sans Borders globally. We are working on to:

1 Engage with various stakeholders.

2 Set up the founding team of members and organizations – The Anchor members.

3 Set up a not-for-profit foundation in Geneva.

4 Foster collaboration among governments, international organizations, private sector innovators, and civil society to co-create sustainable, ethical, and human-centered Digital Health ecosystems.

5 Accelerate the deployment of interoperable Digital Health solutions that reach underserved communities — from remote villages to conflict zones — ensuring equitable healthcare access regardless of geography or socio-economic status.

6 Support evidence-based approaches to Digital Health through global data sharing, open standards, and innovations in AI, telemedicine, and mobile health technologies.

7 Engage with policymakers to establish regulatory frameworks that uphold privacy, security, and equitable use of Digital Health tools, guided by the principles of the Geneva Declaration of Responsibility.

8 Grow the global community of Digital Health experts and volunteers committed to providing real-time support and expertise through digital platforms to those in need, anytime and anywhere.

9 Finally, start delivering on ground – the ultimate goal of Digital Health Sans Borders.

Together, we will continue to bridge divides, break down barriers, and harness the full potential of Digital Health to save and improve lives—truly making healthcare borderless and accessible to all.

Join the Movement

We welcome partnerships with organizations and individuals committed to advancing equitable Digital Health worldwide. By joining with Digital Health Sans Borders, you can help drive innovation, support capacity building, advocate for inclusive policies, and provide vital resources and expertise to extend digital healthcare to all communities and support the delivery of Digital Health services in the most underserved regions and save and serve lives. Join us in making healthcare truly borderless and accessible to everyone.

Write to us: founder@parliament.health / contact@parliament.health

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