



**UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH
AND ALLIED SCIENCES, HO**
— *Health for Development* —

THE UHAS 2020 DECLARATION ON RESEARCH FUNDING

From the virtual convening conducted by University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho (UHAS) and Health Systems Global (HSG), July 29–30, 2020

At the conclusion of the virtual convening to dialogue on the theme “*The rhetoric to fund research by Africa’s Governments must stop: Raising a new voice for improving the continent’s health challenges over the next generation*”, which was organised by the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), Ho, Ghana with support from Health Systems Global (HSG) and participation of other institutionsⁱ and individuals, held via Zoom platform from 29–30 July 2020;

Having discussed in detail

- The importance of ongoing scientific discovery that responds to local needs, informs national policy making, and advances national development;
- The lack of harmony between budgetary allocations and disbursements of research funds in Ghana, as in several other African countries;

And having concluded that

- There is urgent need of governmental inputs of financial and other resources toward a sustainable national research and development agenda;
- There is urgent need for Ghana and other African countries to build capacity for producing data that solves national problems and global issues;
- There is urgent need for stakeholders in research and academic institutions to add their voices to advancing a sustainable, national research agenda,

We (the organisers and participants) declare as follows:

We commend the Government of Ghana (GoG) for taking the bold step of drafting the Ghana National Research Fund Bill 2019, currently under consideration in parliament, that will make at least 1% of GDP available for research and development.

We call for action by the Government of Ghana

1. To engage with all stakeholders, including research and academic institutions, in all processes leading to the passing and implementation of this bill
2. To learn from the successes of other African countries that have made substantial investments in Research and Development (R&D) and emulate models that have worked
3. To feature research prominently as a key component of the next (2020–2025) and subsequent development plans

We call for action by all stakeholders in academic and research institutions

1. To hold GoG accountable for commitments/ promises to fund R&D by developing a tracking system that will
 - a. Create a sustainable institutional framework to support a national R&D agenda

- b. Ensure transparency and equity in allocation and disbursement of resources to support R&D
2. To partner with relevant organizations, including the media, to tell success stories that will highlight the national development impact of their research

Further to the above, we, the organisers at UHAS, resolve

To broaden the scope of this public discourse in order to build synergies with other research and academic institutions that will lead to consensus in support of our position stated above.

Signatories:

ⁱ University of Health and Allied Sciences; WHO-AFRO; Swedish Development Cooperation Agency; Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Ghana; Ghana Health Service; Ministry of Health, Ghana; National Development Planning Commission, Ghana; CitiTV; Ghana News Agency; JoyNews; Volta Star Radio.