Statement of Interest - Dr. Priya Balasubramaniam

To the Selection Committee and HSG Members,

I am writing to express my keen interest in joining the Board of Health Systems Global in a general seat. My work over the last 17+ years as a global health development professional, clinician and entrepreneur has involved leading and managing a range of projects committed to strengthening health systems in diverse policy environments in Asia, Africa, and North America and fostering innovation to advance universal health coverage (UHC) in mixed health systems in low- and middle-income countries. My key engagement areas have included urban health, governance, private sector engagement, and digital health transformation.

My journey with Health Systems Global began at the 2012 HSG Symposium in Beijing as a tentative introduction to the emerging field of health systems and policy research. Since then, I've participated in subsequent conferences witnessing the evolution of a pioneering HSG community into a reputable global health systems and policy research society. This progression paralleled my own deepening engagement with HSG as a member, contributor, and eventually, as the coordinating committee lead of the Private Sector in Health Thematic Working Group (TWG) for the last 6 years.

Over the years, this diverse, inclusive HSPR community has been instrumental in shaping my own understanding of the complexities of country health systems, their inherent grey areas, and the assortment of stakeholders that makes them work. Although HSG is still relatively young, it has grown tremendously in both reach and influence, establishing itself as a prestigious global network for field-building in HSPR. For me, the essence of HSG lies in its multidisciplinary Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) and their inter-sectoral focus areas.

As an active TWG lead I have co-organized and led satellite sessions and PSIH TWG activities on private sector engagement in three symposia including the last one in Colombia along with cross TWG collaborations with colleagues at the FCAS group and other members of HSG. My work in the TWG involved being closely attuned to action in the field and required skills in organisational and financial planning, fundraising, and stakeholder management. This was essential for cultivating membership, expanding our networks, and initiating volunteer-driven activities to stay both relevant and engaging. I would like to bring this on-the-ground learning and experience to HSG's mission and strategy in the following ways if I am elected.

First, I would like to bring my experience in strategic leadership, managing diverse partnerships, resource mobilization, and collective ideation to further strengthen, advocate for, and promote the TWGs and their activities. TWGs represent the many facets of HSG, and it is crucial for HSG to continue leveraging their contributions, offer a keener ear, and provide collaborative opportunities and resources to support their work. Second, as someone from the global south, who actively engages with a diverse array of non-state/private entities, technology innovators, and social enterprises in the region, I would like to leverage my networking skills to promote HSG as an outstanding platform for engaging a broader network of health system actors who are not yet part of this community -but play a crucial role in building health system capacities. Finally, I hope to leverage my multidisciplinary background and decision-making skills to work with the board and membership to further HSG's mission. This includes catering to a diverse community of stakeholders, mentoring early career researchers and development professionals, promoting gender equality, and creating equitable HSPR forums for a range of health system actors. I'm excited to contribute to this mission of equity, inclusivity, and mentorship by providing a fresh yet familiar voice for growing the society in a sustainable manner through innovative solutions rooted in my experiences with the Thematic Working Groups.

I am eager to bring my experience and passion for health systems strengthening to the Board of Health Systems Global. I respectfully request the mandate from its membership to represent its interests and advance HSGs global mission of advancing equitable health outcomes for all. Please

feel reach to reach out to me for any questions or clarifications that you may have about my candidacy.

Thank you for considering my application,

Sincerely,

Dr. Priya Balasubramaniam
Executive Director, Centre for Sustainable Health Innovations, Singapore/India
Senior Public Health Scientist & Director, Public Health Foundation of India