I would like to express my keen interest in serving as a member of HSG board. I hold in high regard the pivotal role of this global network in fostering connections among individuals dedicated to promoting fairer health systems worldwide, as well as for pushing the global health discussion and action beyond its current boundaries. At this juncture of my life and career, I am equipped with the requisite time, intellect, passion and experience to actively contribute to the HSG community, driven by an unwavering thirst for knowledge and a fervent commitment to service.

My affiliation with HSG dates back to 2014, when I was privileged to be selected for the Emerging Voices for Global Health program. The main theme of the 2014 symposium, "people-centered health systems", continues to resonate deeply with me and remains a guiding principle in my professional trajectory, despite this statement may now sound obvious –as it must be. I envision HSG as a dynamic forum where the collective energy, resources, networks and expertise we harness are channeled toward serving individuals who interact with, utilize and construct health systems worldwide, with a focus on fostering genuine equity and empathy.

Over the past decade, I have contributed to HSG through various avenues. I have been an active member of the Emerging Voices for Global Health and Accountability and Anti-Corruption Thematic Working Groups, actively participated in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Network, served as a mentor for capacity strengthening initiative aimed at early-career researcher women from LMICs, and contributed as a reviewer in the last four symposiums.

In particular, as a member of Emerging Voices for Global Health TWG, I served as board member, playing the roles of co-chair (2019-2020) and chair (2021-2022). That experience provided me with invaluable insights into the responsibilities and commitments entailed in leadership positions within the organization. Through this experience, I have cultivated enduring relationships with people across the globe, whom I fondly referred to as "co-inspirators", as aptly coined by a fellow EV alum.

I draw inspiration from visionary leaders such as Jacinda Ardern, former prime minister of New Zealand, whose leadership philosophy emphasizes the importance of walking alongside and among the people. In these uncertain times, characterized by epochal shifts in human history, the HSG board bears the mandate of guiding the community towards navigating these challenges. I am deeply committed to fostering inclusivity, amplifying diverse voices, and bridging generational divides in our pursuit of equitable health systems. With unwavering dedication, I am eager to collaborate with HSG members on both global, regional and local fronts to effect meaningful change.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I am confident that, if given the opportunity, I can contribute significantly to the impact of the HSG community.

Sincerely,

Sara Ardila-Gómez.