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This year's meeting finds us face-to-face with a challenge of unprecedented scale: for the first time ever, more than 60 million people are fleeing war, terror and persecution. The effects have been profound. Europe, seen for decades as a model for cooperation and friendship, is diverging from its blueprint. Social norms and contracts are dissolving under the weight of mistrust and short-term interests. In many countries, health systems are struggling hard with the duty of providing care for those in need.

Experience shows that there is only one way to confront these paramount issues: we have to build up trust again and intensify international cooperation. Last year's G7 summit emphasized these issues and the German government ties its G20 Presidency at the end of 2016 to sharpening this focus and working on reforming the global healthcare structure, as Chancellor Angela Merkel expresses in her Welcome Message. This strong political will is being accompanied by

the internationally endorsed Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and highly promising developments in translational research that cross the boundaries between science and medicine, as well as increasing accessibility of data and powerful new tools.

This spirit of cooperation permeated the WHS Geneva Meeting in April 2016, held on the occasion of the Geneva Health Forum's (GHF) sixth edition and 10 year anniversary. It emphasized the continuous commitment of the Swiss government and the GHF organizers to global health and peace, thus providing a sterling example of partnership and friendship and sounding a clear call for collaboration of all health-related sectors.

To continue this call, the World Health Summit 2016 will draw more international experts from academia, politics, the private sector, and civil society than ever before. Their deliberations will focus on topics including:

- Migration and Refugee Health:  
From Care to Policy
- Technological Innovation for Health:  
Improving Healthcare Delivery
- Women, Empowerment and Health:  
Equality and Agency
- Translational Research:  
Advancing Innovative Treatment
- Infectious Diseases:  
Lessons Learned from Ebola to Zika
- Sustainable Development Goals:  
Transforming the Health Agenda

Supported by the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities, and National Academies, this meeting will serve as an example of the way trust and cooperation can improve lives worldwide.

What better goal could we collectively contribute than the hope for longer, healthier lives that can be lived out in peace? Please join us as we work toward this goal.



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