C.3329/GC7/RES/01

14th January 2025

ThePSH

DPH

Director/NC-HIV

**Request for Approval to Attend AI Steering Workshop in Belgium**

The National AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and STIs Control Programme (NASCP), in collaboration with the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN), implements the GC7 Global Fund programme which focuses on the health sector response to HIV, particularly improving access to prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) through timely case identification and provision of antiretroviral therapy.

2. To enhance targeted case identification, NASCP collaborated with IHVN and EPCON in developing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) solution that leverages AI technologies to identify geographical areas of high burden and optimize interventions. NASCP ensures strategic data-driven program monitoring and evaluation, pivotal to improving public health outcomes, especially in HIV/AIDS.

3. EPCON, a company based in Antwerp, Belgium, specializes in leveraging AI to enhance health access. Their mission focuses on identifying disease burdens, predicting their evolution, and evaluating the impact of interventions. Through the IHVN GC7 grant, EPCON is engaged to develop the AI solutions for PMTCT.

4. To this end, EPCON is organizing an AI Steering Workshop for key government and IHVN staff, focusing on the following:

* Knowledge Transfer: Training on AI systems for disease burden analysis and case optimization
* Lessons Learned: Leveraging past challenges and best practices for improved programming using AI models
* Strategic Planning: Defining future actions for enhanced program outcomes

The workshop details are as follows:

* **Workshop Dates:** January 25th – January 30th, 2024

**(Departure:** January 24th, 2024, **Return:** January 31st, 2024).

* **Venue:** Radisson Blu Hotel, Antwerp City Center, Belgium

5. The PS is kindly requested to approve the following NASCP staff to attend the workshop:

1. Dr. Adebobola Bashorun – Director/NC- NASCP
2. Dr. Morka Mercy Chinenye – Assistant Director/Head Strategic Information
3. Dr. Mojisola Mobolaji-Bello – Assistant Director/Programme coordinator – NASCP GC7 project

The participation of the nominated NASCP staff in the workshop will be fully sponsored by EPCON through the IHVN GC7 grant, with **no direct financial implications** for the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMoH&SW). The invitation letters of the nominees are at pages ------ to -------.

6**.** Submitted please.

Dr. Morka Mercy Chinenye

Head, Strategic Information (SI)