



## **Decarbonisation of the global healthcare system is the priority for new Taskforce launched at COP26, as part of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales' Sustainable Markets Initiative**

- Global leaders from across the healthcare sector including AstraZeneca, GSK, Merck, Roche, Samsung Biologics, Sanofi, Novo Nordisk, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, NHS England, the Sustainable Healthcare Coalition, the Health and Global Policy Institute, the Karolinska Institutet and the University of Pavia have come together through the launch of a new dedicated Health Systems Taskforce, as part of the Sustainable Markets Initiative.
- Bringing together some of the world's leading organisations working at the forefront of healthcare delivery, the Taskforce aims to drive action in digital healthcare, supply chains and patient care pathways to accelerate the net zero transition.
- Launched at COP26 in Glasgow, in the presence of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, the Taskforce will drive recommendations and actions in support of a sustainable health system.
- For more information, please visit [www.sustainable-markets.org](http://www.sustainable-markets.org)

**Glasgow, Scotland, 4 November 2021** – For the first time, a unique collaboration of leaders from global life sciences, international institutions, healthcare systems, academia and policymakers have come together to form a Health Systems Taskforce as part of the Sustainable Markets Initiative. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales convened the Taskforce to accelerate the delivery of net zero, sustainable healthcare to improve individual, societal and planetary health.

The climate emergency is also a public health emergency, contributing to an increase in chronic conditions such as heart disease, cancer and respiratory illnesses. Air pollution as a result of emissions and pollutants is estimated to kill over eight million people per annum.<sup>i</sup> The healthcare sector has a vital role to play in mitigating against and treating the impact of the climate crisis. The healthcare sector is estimated to produce approximately 4.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>ii</sup>

Recognising that more must be done to drive the sustainable transition, members of the Taskforce are committed to developing a collective roadmap to accelerate the delivery of a net zero, sustainable health system.

Championed by AstraZeneca's Chief Executive Officer, Pascal Soriot, the Health Systems Taskforce includes CEO and equivalent-level representation from GSK, Merck, Roche, Samsung Biologics, Sanofi, Novo Nordisk, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, NHS England, the Sustainable Healthcare Coalition, the Health and Global Policy Institute of Japan, the Karolinska Institutet and the University of Pavia. The group has been formally launched at COP26 in Glasgow to seize upon the momentum created by the gathering of global leaders to tackle climate change.

In coordination with other SMI Taskforces, the Health Systems Taskforce will focus its attention on delivering action in the following three priority areas:

1. **Digital healthcare.** The group will identify opportunities to utilise digital innovation and technology to accelerate the shift to net zero across the sector. Areas of focus may include incentivising innovation and increasing regulatory harmonisation for digital technologies and AI across R&D, manufacturing and supply and healthcare delivery.
2. **Supply chains.** The group will work to accelerate the net zero transition across health systems supply chains. Areas of focus may include infrastructure, freight and logistics, the



procurement of goods and services, and driving greater innovation and circularity across the supply chain.

3. **Patient care pathways.** The group will identify opportunities to deliver net zero, patient-centric care. Areas of focus may include increasing investment and incentives for the prevention of ill health, early detection and diagnosis, and optimising care to improve outcomes for patients, health systems, the environment and society at large.

The Taskforce will also focus on the development of initiatives and shared commitments in the areas of:

- i. The measurement of and metrics for the assessment of the environmental impact of Health Systems; and
- ii. Education and wider policy change

The Taskforce will keep national and global policy and decision-makers updated on its activities, and will provide regular reports on progress in the lead up to COP27 in 2022.

The Taskforce members include:

- Pascal Soriot, CEO, AstraZeneca
- Dr. Fiona Adshead, Chair, Sustainable Healthcare Coalition
- Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF
- Lars Fruergaard Jørgensen, CEO, Novo Nordisk
- Belén Garijo, CEO, Merck
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization
- André Hoffman, Vice Chairman, Roche
- Paul Hudson, CEO, Sanofi
- Prof. Ole Petter Ottersen, President, Karolinska Institutet
- Lord David Prior, Chair, NHS England
- John Rim, CEO, Samsung Biologics
- Prof. Francesco Svelto, Rector, University of Pavia
- Dame Emma Walmsley, CEO, GSK

Speaking on the launch of the Taskforce, **Pascal Soriot, CEO, AstraZeneca**, said: *“With over four percent of greenhouse gases coming from the healthcare sector, it’s imperative that we act now to make healthcare more sustainable – for the health of people, society and the planet. The SMI Health Systems Taskforce has a key role to play, and AstraZeneca is proud to be working with other forward-thinking companies to drive meaningful change. Together, we can harness the power of innovation to transform our approach, supply chains and patient care pathways to accelerate the delivery of net zero healthcare.”*

**Dr. Fiona Adshead, Chair, Sustainable Healthcare Coalition**, said: *“This ground-breaking global initiative is a very real opportunity to both improve health and reduce the environmental impact of healthcare at the same time. By using metrics and measurement the group will aim to demonstrate impact on health outcomes and environmental footprint.”*

**Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF**, said: *“Investing in stronger, more resilient health systems for children is of utmost priority. As we have seen time and again, health systems which cannot withstand climate shocks or disease outbreaks are deadly. This needs to change. UNICEF is working tirelessly with governments, industry and civil society to strengthen primary health care so that every child can survive and thrive.”*

**Lars Fruergaard Jørgensen , CEO, Novo Nordisk**, said: *“My vision for the Sustainable Markets Initiative Health Systems Taskforce is one where we collaborate across industry, research, policy,*



*NGOs and government and use our collective influence to urgently address the need to reduce emissions and make the health care sector more sustainable. With the right stakeholders in the same room, I believe we can move mountains.”*

**Belén Garijo, CEO, Merck**, said: *“I am delighted to be representing Merck on this SMI Taskforce, because only together can we ensure that healthcare plays a major role in making our way of life more sustainable. Through the adoption of digital health systems and other sustainability initiatives, we can redefine the global accessibility and effectiveness of patient care while achieving climate neutrality.”*

**Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization**, said: *“The future of healthcare needs to be reimagined, where we can build a world that is zero carbon, resilient, and healthy for all.”*

**André Hoffmann, Vice Chairman, Roche**, said: *“For me, business as a force for good is when we identify businesses who can have an impact on society which is net positive. We should bring to the system more than we take out. This is what we do at Roche, and with the Sustainable Markets Initiative Health Systems Taskforce.”*

**Paul Hudson, CEO, Sanofi**, said: *“Sanofi is proud to join the Health Systems Taskforce of the Sustainable Markets Initiative. We look forward to identifying how we can make the patient care pathway more efficient to deliver net zero, patient-centric care and improve outcomes for patients, health systems, and the planet.”*

**Prof. Ole Petter Ottersen, President, Karolinska Institutet**, said: *“To reduce the carbon footprint of the healthcare sector we need systems thinking and innovative solutions enabled by high quality research and education. At Karolinska Institutet we strive for a better health for all, implying a focus also on the health of future generations. The present initiative is well aligned with our concept of “sustainable health” which tells us to improve health while staying within planetary boundaries.”*

**John Rim, CEO, Samsung Biologics**, said: *“Samsung Biologics is proud to participate in this meaningful action and be part of the newly-established Taskforce as part of the Sustainable Markets Initiative. Through our combined efforts, I hope we can help shape climate-resilient policies and practices to influence across the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors.”*

**Prof. Francesco Svelto, Rector, University of Pavia**, said: *“Our involvement in the SMI Health Systems Taskforce confirms our commitment to environmental sustainability, good health, and well-being. We will contribute by providing training, research, and patient-based healthcare.”*

**Dame Emma Walmsley, CEO, GSK**, said: *“We must act now to protect and restore the planet’s health if we are to protect and improve people’s health. GSK is committed to zero carbon by 2030 but radical collaboration beyond our own impact is needed. That’s why we’re thrilled to join The Health Systems Taskforce that will help explore how digital transformation, a focus on prevention and on supply chains can accelerate the shift to net zero.”*

#### **Notes to editors:**

The Taskforce and its members will operate on a consensus basis. None of the content or outputs from the Taskforce will be related to or focused on specific products and they will not be promotional. Taskforce members will not share commercially sensitive or confidential information concerning their products or activities. All Taskforce members are committed to ensuring that the Taskforce and its activities will be conducted in a manner that complies with applicable laws in order to deliver on its mission to improve individual, societal and planetary health.



### **About the Sustainable Markets Initiative**

His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, launched the Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI) at Davos in January 2020. The SMI is a network of global CEOs and private sector corporations working together to build prosperous and sustainable economies that generate long-term value through the balanced integration of natural, social, human and financial capital.

The SMI facilitates the development of responsible transition pathways at industry and business levels to decarbonize and achieve net-zero, create a Nature-positive future and support a trust transition towards a sustainable future.

HRH is appealing to public, private and philanthropic leaders around the world to join this endeavour as part of the 'Coalition of the Willing'. Read more: [www.sustainable-markets.org](http://www.sustainable-markets.org)

For enquiries please contact: [a.newman@sustainable-markets.org](mailto:a.newman@sustainable-markets.org)

---

<sup>i</sup> [https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/public-health-and-environment#:~:text=WHO%20global%20strategy%20on%20health,deaths\)%2C%20and](https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/public-health-and-environment#:~:text=WHO%20global%20strategy%20on%20health,deaths)%2C%20and)  
ii Lenzen, Manfred. "The Environmental Footprint of Health: A Global Assessment". The Lancet Journal,  
2020. <https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2542-5196%2820%2930121-2>