Dear WHO Expert Committee:

I am writing to support the inclusion of fixed dose combination therapy (or “polypill” therapy) for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Model List of Essential Medicines. I am the President of the Pan-African Society of Cardiology which is an umbrella organisation of cardiology and cardiac surgery societies from African, as a result of which I have made a firm commitment to global CVD prevention and control.

As you may be aware, cardiovascular disease is emerging as an important cause of mortality in Africa, with morbidity and mortality projected to increase significantly in the coming decades if current trends continue. The availability and use of fixed dose combination therapy for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease will overcome many of the barriers that currently prevent sufficient treatment, including poor adherence, unaffordable cost and inadequate prescription of medication. Different expert panels, including the WHO and the Combination Pharmacotherapy and Public Health Research Working Group, have recognized the potential value of fixed dose combination therapy for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease. I support the recommendation to add fixed dose combination therapy to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease based on its relative affordability, availability, and effectiveness.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely

Professor Bongani M. Mayosi, DPhil, FCP(SA)
President, Pan-African Society of Cardiology