Colleagues and friends,

Our consultation is drawing towards its conclusion. I believe this has been an incredibly productive and informative meeting.

I am indebted to

- the team, led by Prof. Bhutta, that conducted the study and presented the findings of the review;
- the various experts, at both global and country level, who shared their experiences and findings of other studies;
- the members of GHWA Board that joined us for these two days; I believe there could be no stronger indication of the commitment to support the work of my team in the GHWA Secretariat;
- the members of my team in the GHWA Secretariat that worked very hard on the organization of this consultation;
- but most importantly, I am grateful for the extremely thoughtful contributions that every participant made, enriching the discussion with your perspectives and direct experiences; you also help us validate and expand the recommendations emerging from our consensus;
- last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the support received by USAID for commissioning the systematic review and organising this consultation.

I am really pleased to see the emerging of a consensus around the role of CHWs and their fundamental importance in health systems. As we have just seen, we are going to need to finesse the wording of the consensus based on your recommendations, but the main elements that have emerged from the evidence have stood the test of your critical review and analysis:

- CHWs need to be considered an integral part of health systems, starting from the planning stage, and they must be adequately supported, incentivised and managed if we are to maximise the potential benefits arising from the use of this cadre.
I have heard a number of excellent suggestions on how to move from evidence and knowledge to policy and practice. This is at the heart of what GHWA stands for, and we are already actively working on a number of the possible dissemination and advocacy strategies.

Ultimately, however, I urge you to take this as a collective responsibility, because our consultation was not an end in itself, but rather the beginning of a journey that we need to take together.

We will continue needing you, your capacity, your ideas and your voices to take the discussion further, make ourselves heard and ensure that our recommendations become a reality for the women, children and populations living in under-served rural areas in Africa, in Asia, in Latin America.

The challenges in front of us are complex, and will require a sustained engagement over a long period of time. Having now witnessed first hand your level of interest, competence and determination, I am confident that success is possible, and that we will succeed.

Thank you.