



To

The Honorable Ms Pia Kjaersgaard

Date: 16th of October, 2017

Subject: Invitation letter to prospective UNITE member.

Dear Honorable Ms Pia Kjaersgaard,

It is my honour to write to you as the founding President of *UNITE – Parliamentarians Network to End HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis*.

I have taken the liberty of addressing you in acknowledgment of the importance of your leadership and policy work and would be honoured if you would accept our invitation to join our network.

UNITE was recently founded with the support and under the auspices of The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and has been set as a non-profit, non-partisan, global network of parliamentarians (current and former Legislators) from State, National and Regional Parliaments, committed towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and the elimination of HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis as public health threats by 2030.

These last decades have clearly shown how HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis directly impacts the lives of millions of people who live with these conditions and their families around the globe.

36.7 million people globally are living with HIV (end 2015)

Viral hepatitis is responsible for an estimated 1.4 million deaths per year

Over 10 million people develop Tuberculosis (TB) each year

These epidemics represent major international public health challenges, as they have significant burden on lives, communities and health systems. Moreover, these conditions are simultaneously promoters and consequences of inequalities, discrimination and social injustices.

We finally have the scientific evidence and technological means to end HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and TB as public health threats. However, the political engagement and leadership is still lacking. As elected representatives of Citizens, we parliamentarians must do more for the societies we live in.

In this spirit, we felt a significant need to foster an organized network of parliamentarians (composed by present or former Legislators) to advocate for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis and to commit to:

- Actively contribute towards keeping HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis high on the political and media agendas;
- Establish yearly goals, policy recommendations and frameworks on the topics of HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis, based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals | SDGs;
- Ensure the presence of our network in international and regional conferences, debates and decision processes;
- Push for evidence-based reform focused on health outcomes, including quality of life.

Therefore, it is our mission to UNITE political representatives from around the world to give a coordinated, effective, and strong response towards eliminating these global threats. This is our goal. To contribute towards a unified global response against HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and TB as a priority that can no longer be delayed.

If you decide to join UNITE, you will actively be contributing to:

- Give a coordinated, strong and effective response towards eliminating these global threats;
- Ensure that these conditions are acknowledge as public health priorities with a need for integrated responses within health systems, from prevention, diagnosis, linkage-to-care, treatment and follow-up;
- Achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals | SDGs;
- End stigma and discrimination towards those living with HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis, enhancing quality of life and social justice for all;
- Promote research and innovation.



I am honoured to hereby invite you to become an official member of our network and to join our efforts of ending HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis as public health threats by 2030.

It's time to end HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis.

It's time to UNITE.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Baptista Leite". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ricardo Baptista Leite

Founding President of UNITE



Under the auspices of

