

H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa
Union Buildings
Pretoria, Tshwane
Republic of South Africa

October 26, 2018

Dear Mr. President

The Progressive Health Forum, in alliance with the Strategic Dialogue Group, civil society and community formations, wish to take a belated opportunity to express our gratitude to you for affording us an audience on July 3, 2018 at Luthuli House.

Your busy schedule notwithstanding, your generous attention to our submissions and proposals, including hosting a Presidential Health Summit on the crisis in public healthcare, was most heartening.

The Summit was attended by over 600 delegates representing all relevant health constituencies. The outputs offer valuable insights and identify the shortcomings in the public healthcare system that has rendered much of it dysfunctional.

There was also an appreciation of the need to ensure that Universal Health Coverage is realised. It was widely acknowledged that without such a restorative effort to arrest the crisis, attempts to introduce National Health Insurance will be impaired.

The decision of the Summit to craft a Presidential Compact, codifying the commitments of all constituencies to restore the public health service as the healthcare provider and healthcare employer of choice for all South Africans, represents a step-change in efforts to address the crisis and is most welcome.

Since the mandate of the Steering Committee for the Presidential Health Summit has ended, we now propose the convening of a Commission on the Presidential Compact.

The concept note (attached) outlines the rationale for and composition of the Commission, with a strong emphasis on credible leadership, maximal inclusiveness and an efficient process of building consensus over the next six weeks.

We look forward to presenting you with a Presidential Compact on December 10 (fittingly, International Human Rights Day), representing a collective commitment to the rescue, rehabilitation and enhancement of this national treasure, which is the system of first and ultimate resort for the overwhelming majority of the population.

Assuring you of our continued dedication to this national effort, we remain,

Sincerely
Fazel
Dr Fazel Randera,
Convenor, Progressive Health Forum