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Dear Francis

I am pleased to hear that the African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST) Secretariat is now fully operational. As I have said before, I cannot emphasise enough the potential value that such an organisation can offer Africa. NEPAD has identified as central to Africa's future capacity building of African institutions, strengthened civil society and African self-determination and influence on global developments. ACHEST will answer to all these African Heads of State priorities. In health our African analytic and strategic capability remains weak and our voice not sufficiently based on evidence and policy thinking. I look forward to ACHEST helping to fill this gap and to your sharing your findings and recommendation with political leaders in Africa through the AU/NEPAD mechanism.

In sum, I welcome the launch of ACHEST as an independent Health Think Tank in Africa and looks forward to working with ACHEST as a civil society partner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Buch', is positioned above the typed name.

Eric Buch  
Health Adviser, NEPAD