

## High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development

“Investing in the future we want: what will it require?”

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

### G4 Alliance Statement

#### Abbreviated Version:

My name is Albulena Prelvukaj, and I am speaking on behalf of the G4 Alliance a global network dedicated to advocating for the neglected surgical patient and a member of the Women’s Major Group.

Investing in surgical, obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia care is an essential strategy for supporting universal health coverage, poverty alleviation, and long-term sustainable development, as well as the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender equality.

**5 billion people around the world** lack access to surgical care. The WHO recently approved a resolution recognizing the role of emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as part of universal health coverage, ensuring that all people have access to the health care they need without suffering financial hardship, **this public health issue impacts people across all ages and demographics, those most disproportionately impacted include women and children.**

**15% of all pregnancies will result in complications requiring obstetric care, yet 950 million women around the world do not have access to these essential services, contributing to nearly 300,000 maternal deaths each year.**

**While surgical care has been shown to be a cost-effective public health strategy, the implications of surgical care disparities can be socially and economically crippling.**

**It is within this context that I thank Ambassador Fahmy for emphasizing the importance of health as part of the SDGs. I would like to ask the panel: What strategies do you recommend for supporting national investment in universal health coverage, including essential services such as surgical care and anaesthesia as part of sustainable development?**