**Title of Organised Session:** Strengthening Capacity for Teaching and Learning of Health Policy and Systems Research (HPSR) and Health Economics in Africa: Practical Issues for Educators and Learners

**Principal organizer** (Dr. Gina Teddy, Centre for Health Systems and Policy Research, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, P. O. Box AH 50, Achimota, Greenhill College. Accra. Email: gina.teddy@yahoo.co.uk)

**Co-organizers:** This organized session is prepared on behalf Health Systems Global Teaching and Learning Thematic Working Group. It will double as a skills building activity to engage educators in HPSR and Health Economics on practical issues affecting Teaching and Learning in the field broadly. List of speakers include:

* Gina Teddy – Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, Centre for Health Systems and Policy Research (CHESPOR), Ghana (Moderator)
* Jacinta Nzinga - Kemri Wellcome Trust, Health Systems Division (Kenya)
* Leanne Brady - University of Cape Town, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, (South Africa)
* Two Facilitator to be confirmed

**Session abstract:** **400-word maximum**

Securing Primary Health Care for all to achieving Universal Health Coverage in Africa hinges on advancing the health systems for all and strengthening the capacity of educators and learners of HPSR to address practical issues and advancement in the field. This organized session is a participatory skills building activity organized by the Health Systems Global (HSG) Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Teaching and Learning in Health Policy and Systems Research aimed to deliberate and support capacities of African educators in Health Systems and Policy Research (HPSR) and Health Economics.

The aim of the organized session is to provide a platform for educators, researchers and learners to jointly discuss and strengthen their capacity for teaching and learning while addressing practical issues and challenges facing them. This will cover topics such as how to support educators across multiple subjects, fields, languages on the African continent; providing capacity building for leadership development and reflective practice; adopting innovative teaching modes through the use of audio and visual aids for HPSR and Health Economics teaching and learning; and curriculum development for HPSR and Health Economics capacity building and teaching.

Thus, the purpose of the organized session is to provide the platform for key actors in teaching and learning to advance key issues, dilemmas and changes in practice affecting the field to inform steps towards supporting members of the TWG. As well as how to promote collaborative teaching across subjects, languages, fields and across the continent for health economics and health policy towards strengthening our health sector overall.

Findings from the session will be derived from the deliberations of the organized sessions. Two key findings are expected from this session: 1) that the session will be used to a network of educators in health economics and HPSR with the aim of setting capacity building agendas for the continent and 2) to advocate for improved teaching and learning in HPSR and Health Economics through collaborative process across the continent.

**Abstract of each paper (Summary of each Presentation/ Activity)**

This skills building session will facilitate learning from practice and lessons that is inclusive for both educators, researchers and learners of HPSR. It will create the space to engage those teaching in HPSR and Health Economics to openly and mutually develop steps towards advancing health system for all by building relationships for a broader learning community of colleagues to develop the field. Examples of themes guiding the discussions include but not limited to:

* Teaching and Learning across multiple fields for HPSR and Health Economics – Dr. Gina Teddy. This theme will explore the prospects and challenges associated with collaborative activity among educators on the continent be it for resources, materials or expertise through exchange, mentorship or any other means deemed appropriate to build capacity on the continent.
* Leadership development and reflective practice in HPSR – Dr. Jacinta Nzinga - Kemri Wellcome Trust, Health Systems Division (Kenya). The focus of this theme is to address fundamental issues around leadership capacity building in HPSR and Health Economics for leaders, practitioners, policymakers and researchers in their countries to enable them anticipate, respond and address challenges in their countries.
* Using audio-visual aids in teaching and learning HPSR – Dr. Leanne Brady - University of Cape Town, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, (South Africa). This theme will be activity packed exploring the trends, significance and multiple resources available towards using audio-visual aids in teaching HPSR and Health Economics and the presentation of research findings in the field.
* How do we support each other for the teaching and learning of HPSR and Health Economics across the continent, subjects, fields and language (Facilitator to be confirmed). This discussion is an exploration towards the various ways that educators of HPSR may support each other through networking, shared resources, community of practices, etc. and the concrete steps towards achieving them at a country, regional and global level.
* Syllabi and course materials development and pedagogy approaches for teaching and learning HPSR – (Facilitator to be confirmed). One of the challenges facing educators the world over is the appropriateness of their curriculum to enable them to develop the right competencies required by their learners. This discussion is a great platform towards exploring the appropriate ways to address these issues.

This is an open discussion and we expect participants to provide opportunities for mutual exchange, experiential learning, individual and group engagement. The session is open to all conference participants interested in teaching and learning HPSR. By the end of the session, we hope to build a network of educators in health economics and HPSR with the aim of setting capacity building agendas for the continent.