**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Engaging Research Ethics Committees to develop an Ethics and Governance Framework for Best Practices in Genomic Research and Biobanking in Africa: The H3Africa Model

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**Author’s response to reviews:**

The Editor

BMC Medical Ethics

Dear Editor,

Revised Manuscript Submission: Engaging Research Ethics Committees and Regulatory Authorities in the development of an Ethics and Governance Framework for Best Practice in Genomic research and Biobanking in Africa: the H3Africa Model

We are very grateful to the reviewers and the editors for their prompt and helpful comments on our manuscript and have revised our manuscript as follows:
1. Ethics approval and consent to participate

-Please include a statement on ethics approval and consent to participate in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations.

Response: Our manuscript reports on the engagement activities we carried out with members of Research Ethics Committees across Africa to develop an ethics framework for genomics and biobanking in Africa. Organising these meetings did not require ethics approval.

2. Consent for publication

-We note that you have not included a ‘Consent for publication’ section in the Declarations. Consent for publication refers to consent for the publication of identifying images or other personal or clinical details of participants that compromise anonymity. Seeing as this is not applicable to your manuscript please state “Not Applicable” in this section.

We have included “Not Applicable” under the Declaration Section.

3. Availability of data and material

-We strongly encourage all authors to share their raw data, either by providing it in a supplementary file or depositing it in a public repository and providing the details on how to access it in this section.

We have included “Not Applicable” under the Declaration Section since our manuscript does not have any raw data

4. At this stage, please upload your proofread manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

The final clean version of the manuscript has been uploaded

5. Please read and address the editor’s comments below.
Editor Comments:

Please make the following change that you suggested about regional RECs:

We have addressed this comment in the manuscript

We hope we have addressed the suggestions made by the editor and that you will find these revisions acceptable for publication.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paulina Tindana