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**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF AIDS WATCH AFRICA (AWA)
HEADS OF STATE ACTION COMMITTEE**

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ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 26 MAY 2013**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Action Committee of Heads of State and Government of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the 26 May 2013.

2. The foremost goals of the AWA Action Committee Meeting was to provide an high level platform for AWA Heads of State and Government to share information amongst themselves and with partners, and to consider the progress made on the AU Roadmap for Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for Africa's Response to AIDS, TB and Malaria 2012-2015.

ATTENDANCE:

3. The AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Heads of State meeting was attended by the Heads of State and Heads of Delegations attending the 21st Session of the AU Assembly; Former Heads of State and Champions of AIDS Free Generation as well as Heads of UN Agencies led by UN Secretary General and other partners including PEPFAR and Global Fund. Also present were the Regional Economic Communities: EAC, COMESA, SADC, and ECOWAS.

OPENING

4. The opening segment was addressed by the AUC Chairperson and the UN Secretary General.

i. Remarks by the AUC Chairperson, H.E Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

5. In her remarks, the AUC Chairperson underscored the vital importance of health as an integral component of development in Africa. She emphasized the urgent need to be inward looking and to develop innovative domestic sources of funding for health in general and for AIDS, TB and Malaria in particular. She noted that Africa needs to reduce dependency on external funding as the continent cannot afford to have its health and development programmes to be predominantly externally funded.

6. She expressed appreciation and paid tribute to the past and current Chairpersons of AWA for the leadership AWA has demonstrated in the fight against AIDS, TB & Malaria. She urged AWA to continue to provide leadership, take ownership, and mobilize sufficient resources for effective response to these three diseases. She also urged AWA to take the lead in providing accountability for commitments undertaken. She concluded that collectively and with solidarity AWA's vision to hasten the end of the HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria epidemics in Africa can be achieved.

ii. Remarks of the UN Secretary General H.E. Ban Ki-Moon

7. He urged the Heads of State and Government to continue investing in an AIDS-free Africa in order to improve the health, empowerment and human rights of their citizens. He noted that the benefits of an AIDS-free Africa would reverberate far beyond this continent. He expressed hope that the AWA meeting would contribute towards keeping AIDS, TB and Malaria at the core of the post-2015 development framework.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS:

8. The meeting adopted the provisional Agenda and Programme of Work without any amendment.

Consideration of the Report of the AWA Consultative Experts Committee Meeting

9. The Commissioner for Social Affairs presented the outcome of the AWA Consultative Experts Committee meeting that took place on 24 April 2013. He gave a summary of the recommendations of the Experts in relation to the one-year assessment of the implementation of the Roadmap on Shared responsibility as the Practical Guide developed for its implementation. Among the recommendations of the Experts, the Commissioner highlighted the following:

- The Roadmap should consider innovative ways to involve the Private Sector in domestic resource mobilization and active role in AIDS, TB & Malaria prevention;
- Advocate for BRICS Partners to invest in African pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity, especially of generic essential drugs;
- Members States are urged to develop evidence-based and well-costed sustainable national strategies using inclusive processes that prioritize how national resources (financial, human & capital) will be invested in the coming years, and lays out clear lines for implementation and accountability;
- Member States are urged to develop a comprehensive plan to modernize the Health System Governance Bodies to improve leadership, coherence, efficiency and performance of the health sector.

10. The Heads of State and Government took note of the report and endorsed the One-Year Progress Report and Practical Guide for the Implementation of the Roadmap on Shared responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, TB & Malaria (2012-2015).

Remarks/Responses by AWA Action Committee Heads of State and Government**i. Remarks by H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia**

11. She elaborated on the continued efforts of ALMA on mobilizing resources to fight malaria as well as the accountability effort through the use of the Malaria Score card. She informed that some Member States are beginning to develop national Malaria Scorecard, citing the examples of Nigeria and Ethiopia. She noted with satisfaction the collaboration between AWA and ALMA, and expressed the hope that such collaboration would extend to 2015 so as to achieve the targets of MDG6 . Thereafter, she handed over the Chairmanship of ALMA to H.E President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique.

ii. Remarks by H.E Armando Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique

12. President Armando Guebuza in his remarks accepted the role of the chairperson of ALMA. He called for single mindedness in crafting the approaches and strategies in the response to the three diseases. He further called for increased efficiency in the use of the existing resources for health and improvement of procurement system, while encouraging local production. Finally, he indicated the readiness in his capacity as Chair of ALMA to work with AWA in order to achieve better progress in the fight against the three diseases.

iii. Remarks by H.E Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

13. President Goodluck Jonathan in his statement appreciated the AU leadership in tackling the three diseases and assured the meeting that Nigeria supports the AU Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, TB and Malaria responses in Africa. He shared with the meeting the experiences of Nigeria and ongoing efforts in fighting the three diseases. He acknowledged that the continent needs to look inwards for innovative mechanisms and solutions in health financing in order to reduce reliance on external resources. He urged the meeting to be proactive rather than reactive about the health of Africa's future generations.

14. He concluded by reminding the meeting of the Abuja+12 Special Follow-up Summit taking place in Abuja from 15-16 July 2013. He indicated that he has extended invitation to all Heads of State and Government, as well as partners and expressed the hope to see them in Abuja. The Special Abuja +12 Summit would provide an opportunity to evaluate progress collectively made on the continent.

iv. Remarks by H.E Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa

15. President Jacob Zuma in his contribution, extensively shared the experiences of South Africa in the fight against AIDS, TB & Malaria, as well as expanding access to medicine. He informed of the significant progress made by South Africa in reducing AIDS mortality by about 50% and continued progress in reduction of mother-to-child

transmission of HIV. With respect to access to medicine, President Zuma emphasized the imperative of local production of essential medicines and expressed the readiness of South Africa to facilitate the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA).

16. President Zuma then underscored the importance of AWA as an oversight mechanism for advocacy, accountability and resource mobilization. He commended the work of partners and CSOs at national level as well as the leadership of AU on AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa. He further stressed that Africa is now strong to lead and drive its development agenda.

v. Remarks by H.E Joyce Banda, President of the Republic of Malawi

17. President Joyce expressed support for the Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, TB and Malaria responses in Africa. She indicated that in the last two years, Malawi has moved from 200,000 people under HIV treatment to 500,000. She noted the effect of HIV/AIDS on the high rate of maternal mortality and informed of the ongoing social mobilization efforts to access to health facilities by women.

18. President Banda called on the meeting to incorporate the AIDS, TB and Malaria indicators into the African Peer Review Mechanisms in order to improve accountability on health. She concluded by urging the meeting to support the replenishment efforts of the Global Fund.

Messages of support by the Development Partners

i. Dr. Mark Dybul, Executive Director of Global Fund

19. The Executive Director of the Global Fund, Dr. Mark Dybul declared the Fund's support for the local production of essential medicines, especially in the area of forecasting and guarantees, leveraging with private sector and support of low cost and high quality production and export. He noted that this generation of Heads of State and Government like no other, have an unprecedented opportunity to end AIDS, TB and Malaria. He concluded by calling upon the meeting to support the US\$ 15billion of the replenishment of the Global Fund.

ii. Ambassador Eric Goosby, United States Global AIDS Coordinator, PEPFAR

20. Ambassador Eric Goosby reiterated that shared responsibility represents a crucial pillar of the Blueprint for responding to HIV/AIDS along with saving lives, smart investments and driving results with science. He noted that defining Africa's response to HIV/AIDS remains an African and African Union responsibility. He further noted that the African Leadership is critical today and it will be critical at the upcoming Abuja +12 Special Summit when Africa will take stock of its pledge to increase domestic resources for health. He concluded that the United States of America will continue to stand by Africa, as we collectively pursue the goal of an AIDS-free generation.

iii. **Mr. Michel Sidibe, UN Undersecretary and Executive Director of UNAIDS**

21. The Executive Secretary of the UNAIDS recognized and commended the role played by former Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo (Nigeria) and Festus Mogae (Botswana) for their role in the establishment of the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA). He also recognized the role of former Presidents who are champions of AIDS-free Generation. They include Jerry Rawlings (Ghana) who was in attendance and President Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia) who was absent.

Election of AWA Vice-Chair and Regional Champions

22. Following consultations, the meeting appointed President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique as the Vice-Chairperson of AWA for a period of two years. The meeting also appointed the following as Champions of AWA:

- President Alassane Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire - West Africa;
- President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon - Central Africa;
- President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania - East Africa;
- President Joyce Banda of Malawi - Southern Africa;
- President Moncef Marzouki, of the Democratic Republic of Tunisia - North Africa.

CLOSING

23. Before adjourning the meeting, H.E. Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Chairperson of the African Union and AIDS Watch Africa (AWA), called upon the meeting to support the replenishment of the Global Fund and urged AU Member States to honour their annual contribution to UNAIDS core budget. He concluded by inviting the Vice-Chairperson of AWA and the Regional Champions of AWA to meet at the margins of the Abuja +12 Special Summit in Abuja, Nigeria in July 2012.

24. Finally, he commended the Department of Social Affairs of the AUC for a well-organized meeting and quality of documents.

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