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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Tel 5517 700 Cables: OAU, Addis Ababa website : www. africa-union.org

2nd ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF HEALTH (CAMH2)
GABORONE, BOTSWANA
10 – 14 OCTOBER 2005

CAMH/Decl.1 (II)

GABORONE DECLARATION

ON A ROADMAP TOWARDS UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

We, the Ministers of Health of the Member States of the African Union, meeting on the occasion of the Second Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health in Gaborone, Botswana from 13-14 October 2005;

CONCERNED about the increasing disease burden in Africa particularly due to HIV and AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other communicable diseases;

AWARE that, in spite of the various efforts by Member States, access to prevention, treatment and care still remains limited and costly;

FURTHER AWARE that the success of these efforts largely depends on well functioning health systems, accessible to all corners of our countries;

ACKNOWLEDGING that more than a third of the people on the continent do not have adequate access to essential medicines and care;

RECALLING the commitments of African leaders as contained in the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Roll-Back-Malaria of April 2000, the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases of April 2001 both of which were reaffirmed in the Maputo Declaration on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases in July 2003, the AU/NEPAD Health Strategy of 2003, and AU Assembly Decision 55(IV) on the Interim Report on HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and Polio of Abuja, January 2005;

FURTHER RECALLING the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), United Nations General Assembly Special Session on AIDS (2001) and on Children (2002) and the commitment to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in the Millennium Declaration 2000;

RECOGNIZING that despite the progress made in some of our countries to mainstream HIV and AIDS, TB, Malaria and Other Related Infectious Diseases into Development Frameworks including through the PRSP process, these diseases continue to undermine other efforts to reduce the disease-burden on the continent;

RECOGNISING that the human resources for health crisis affecting the continent is a severe impediment to health system strengthening and a constraint to accessing prevention, treatment and care;

RECOGNIZING that the ICPD Goals and Objectives are important in achieving the MDGs;

RECOGNIZING the advances we have made in building health systems and programmes for prevention and care on the continent and in addressing major disease burdens;

ACKNOWLEDGING the commitments made by the G8 and other development partners;

ALARMED by the persistently high levels of maternal, newborn and child morbidity, mortality and disability, mostly due to preventable causes and curable conditions;

ALARMED by the imminent threat that an avian influenza pandemic poses for Africa;

CONVINCED that capacity building for production of medicines in our countries is essential to ensuring that there is access to treatment and care for all our people;

CONVINCED that achieving the MDGs on our continent is of paramount importance for the realization of the Vision and Mission of the African Union and the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);

WE HEREBY:

1. **REAFFIRM** our commitment to the development of *Sustainable Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* and for the realization of the ICPD Goals and Objectives;

2. **COMMIT** ourselves to the achievement of Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care by 2015 through the development of an integrated health care delivery system based on essential health package delivery close-to-client through the following:

(i) Promotion of a pro-poor health care system through strengthening of primary health care;

(ii) Scaling up of the treatment of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria through proven effective drug combinations;

(iii) Distribution of free insecticide-treated bed-nets to pregnant women and all under 5 children in malaria-endemic zones and the use of indoor residual spraying where applicable;

(iv) Strengthen Health Systems to promote universal access by implementing the Abuja Recommendation of allocating at least 15% of the national budget to health;

(v) Prepare and implement costed human resources for health development plans;

(vi) Strengthen partnerships, including through the 3 ones strategy, for improving access to treatment and care with communities, local government, youth networks, civil society, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), development partners and other stakeholders.

3. **UNDERTAKE** to pursue, with the support of our partners, the local production of generic medicines on the continent and to making full use of the flexibilities in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health;

4. **CALL UPON** our Ministers of Trade to seek a more appropriate permanent solution at the WTO that revises the TRIPS agreement and removes all constraints, including procedural requirements, relating to the export and import of generic medicines.

5. **CALL UPON** member states and regional economic communities to ensure that TRIPS plus provisions which go beyond TRIPS obligations are not introduced in bilateral / regional trade agreements or in economic partnership agreements.

6. **UNDERTAKE** to implement the revised Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy.

7. **RECOMMIT** ourselves to the Bamako Initiative on access to Primary Health Care for the reduction of disease-burden in our countries and the development of functional and equitable health systems;

8. **RESOLVE** to recommit ourselves to the implementation of the 2001 Lusaka Decision on the African Union Decade for African Traditional Medicine (AHD/DEC.164 (XXXVII) and its plan of action;

9. **RESOLVE** to recommit ourselves to the implementation of the ICPD Goals and Objectives by adopting the Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy Framework (SRH);

10. **CALL** for the harmonization of gender disaggregated databases for the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, particularly 4, 5, and 6, on an annual basis;

11. **ALSO CALL UPON** Member States to expand DOTS with a view to achieving Universal coverage of TB treatment by 2015;

12. **EXPRESS OUR DETERMINATION** to eradicate polio and ensure that every child is protected from Polio and urge Regional Economic Communities to initiate and intensify synchronized polio vaccination campaigns;

13. **MANDATE** the AU Commission to alert the Heads of State of the imminent threat of an avian influenza pandemic and to seek technical guidance and assistance for member states on strengthening their integrated disease surveillance and response strategies, community education, and procurement and stockpiling of antiviral agents and vaccines.

14. **URGE** the International Community to honour their pledges to ensure availability of resources for sustainable access to treatment and care for the achievement of the millennium development goals and the G8 and other donor countries to fulfil their commitment for an additional US$50 billion in global aid by 2010;

15. **REQUEST** the African Union Commission to:

    (i) develop mechanisms for advocating for and sharing of best practices in the delivery of pro-poor treatment and care for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

    (ii) accelerate the development and facilitation of implementation of a Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa;

    (iii) come up with a Roadmap for Sustainable Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within one year;

    (iv) report on progress made on Sustainable Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the next Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health and other relevant organs of the African Union.