

DECLARATION ON THE REPORT OF AIDS WATCH AFRICA (AWA) ACTION COMMITTEE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Nineteenth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 15 to 16 July 2012, following our consideration of the Report of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Action Committee of Heads of State and Government:

RECALLING Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.395 (XVIII) whereby AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) was revitalized as an African high level platform to advocate for action, accountability and resource mobilization for response to HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria in Africa; and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.413(XVII) requesting the AU Commission, NEPAD and UNAIDS to work out a roadmap on shared responsibility for a viable response to AIDS, including health financing;

ALSO RECALLING the global and Abuja commitments on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, as well as the Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Africa Health Strategy, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, and African Plan Towards Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive;

ACKNOWLEDGING that efforts to implement these commitments should be redoubled by all stakeholders for Africa to achieve universal access to health services and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015;

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMENDING the role played by international development partners in the response to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, particularly through availing the required financing and promotion of access to health services;

RECOGNIZING that the achievements of the last decade in promoting access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria services depended largely on the political will and commitment by Africa's top leadership, increased financing as well as improved partnerships at all levels;

APPRECIATING the support of UNAIDS in the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that, in spite of these achievements, the challenge posed by HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria on the continent remains immense.

Hereby declare as follows:

1. **RE-COMMIT** individually and collectively to continued implementation of all our previous commitments towards universal access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria services in Africa including maternal and child health, equitable access to affordable and quality-assured medicines and health commodities, promotion of social protection and strengthening of health systems in the context of gender-equality and human rights;

2. **ALSO RE-COMMIT** to keeping the struggle against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria high on national, regional and continental agendas; and ensuring accountability for results and targets to be achieved in the response to these diseases, and for efficient utilization of resources budgeted for health;
3. **ENDORSE** the Report and recommendations on the Future Direction of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) 2012-2015, and the *“Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria Response in Africa: Roadmap 2012-2015”*;
4. **DECIDE** to fully incorporate the AWA Secretariat into the structures and regular budget of the African Union Commission from 2013 onwards;
5. **ALSO DECIDE** that each AWA Action Committee Head of State and Government nominate an expert conversant with AIDS, TB and Malaria as his/her representative on the Consultative Experts Committee and the National Working Group on AWA;
6. **FURTHER DECIDE** to call for a parallel meeting on shared responsibility and Global Solidarity for the AIDS response on the sidelines of UN General Assembly in New York in September 2012 and **URGED** all AU Heads of State and Government to participate in the meeting;
7. **ENCOURAGE** all AU Heads of State and Government to join AIDS Watch Africa and, led by the AWA Action Committee, to champion the campaign against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa by 2015. To this end, we will lay emphasis on mobilizing increased domestic resources, improving value for money, enhancing planning and using existing resources more rationally;
8. **URGE** Member States to collaborate with people living with and affected by HIV and re-mobilize society as a whole for renewed response to AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa through more innovative and sustainable mechanisms and well-coordinated partnerships. Focus should be on prevention of new HIV, TB and Malaria infections, ensuring good nutrition and more equitable access to affordable and quality-assured medicines and health-related commodities;
9. **CALL UPON** Development Partners to meet their previous commitments, sustain and coordinate their support for the fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria in the continent, in the spirit of promoting global solidarity, health and development;
10. **REQUEST** UN Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, the private sector and other international organizations and partnerships, to intensify and coordinate their support and collaboration at all levels;
11. **ALSO REQUEST** Regional Economic Communities and Regional Health Organizations, in collaboration with the AU and other partners, to redouble their efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in their respective regions;

12. **FINALLY REQUEST** the AU Commission to coordinate, follow up and report annually on the implementation of this Declaration; and the NEPAD Agency, African Peer Review Mechanism, the Pan-African Parliament and other relevant regional and continental bodies to fully incorporate HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria control and accountability into their respective programmes and also report annually on related progress.

