

**Inter-Agency meeting on Coordination and Harmonization of HIV  
and AIDS, TB and Malaria Strategies**

**Addis Ababa  
November 6-8, 2006**

**Statement by:**

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**Commissioner Gawanas  
Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities  
Members of the Civil Society Organizations  
Dear Colleagues  
Distinguished Guests**

**I am particularly honored to address this distinguished audience of experts on such an important topic as Coordination and Harmonization of HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Strategies.**

**On behalf of the UN family, I would like to commend the African Union Commission, and particularly, Commissioner Gawanas and her team, the Regional Economic Communities and all other partners for their hard work in preparing this meeting.**

**Allow me also to welcome Representatives of Continental umbrella organizations, as well as those of the African Civil Society Organizations. I would also like to thank and welcome my colleagues from the UN who have come from far away to share with us their expertise, knowledge and experience**

**Commissioner, dear Colleagues and Friends,**

**Over the past few years, the African Union led the continental efforts on HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria which resulted in a number of major activities and commitments at global, continental and regional levels.**

**This engagement of the AU found resonance at the highest political level at the Abuja Summit in 2001. It has since been reinforced through the adoption of NEPAD and its African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and more recently, through the adoption of the Maputo Resolution on Accelerating Prevention in Africa (August 2005) and the Gaborone Declaration on a roadmap towards Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care (October, 2005).**

**The AU has played an important leadership role in coordinating country consultations on Universal Access that culminated in the Continental Consultative Meeting on the subject in Brazzaville in March 2006. As you all know, the Brazzaville Commitment informed the Special Summit of the AU on HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria, which was held in Abuja in May 2006 and served as an input in the formulation of Africa's Common position to the high -level meeting on AIDS in New York.**

**I would also like to mention AIDS Watch Africa (AWA), this unique initiative of 8 Heads of States and government to spearhead advocacy efforts in specific areas of responsibility.**

**Most of the continental Calls and Commitments include specific roles for the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in intensifying cross border cooperation, coordinating inter-country efforts, mobilizing resources and reporting.**

**The Brazzaville Commitment, for example, recommends that the AU, the ECA and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) establish innovative ways to mobilize resources for AIDS at the sub-regional level. It also recommends that the AU in collaboration with the UN, CSOs and other development partners support the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in promoting regional and national bulk purchasing, technology transfer, south to south collaboration and sub-regional production of AIDS-related medicines and commodities.**

**The challenge for all of us is to translate these many commitments and decisions into concrete actions. In this regard, it is important for all the partners and in particular for the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to have a common understanding of these commitments, to identify priority needs and to establish a coordinated approach to better work together.**

**For these reasons, I find this meeting particularly relevant and timely and I would like to suggest that we particularly looks into ways to:**

- ❖ **Establish improved accountability mechanisms to motivate, sustain, measure and publicly report progress towards universal access;**
- ❖ **Set up improved systems for monitoring progress and generating strategic information on HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria;**
- ❖ **Put in place mechanisms for better communication among key partners including AU, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UN, AfDB and CSOs;**
- ❖ **Ensure regularity and continuation of the performance appraisal of countries based on agreed indicators for decisions made;**

**And,**

- ❖ **Strengthen AIDS Watch Africa and APRM for monitoring progress on HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria.**

**Commissioner, dear Colleagues and Friends**

**Let this be a landmark meeting where the AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), in collaboration with the UN, put in place a strong, realistic, harmonized and coordinated Working Mechanism. A Working Mechanism that will make a real difference in the fight against HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria in the Continent.**

**I would like to reconfirm the full commitment of the UN Agencies to support the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in their efforts to address the many challenges posed by HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria.**

**Thank you.**