

Remarks Made by H. E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) In African Ambassadors Briefing on the African Unions Health Agenda and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria Priorities in Africa Within the Context of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hosted by Algeria and Eritrea and Co-organized by the African Union Commission, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Japan Center for International Exchange - Tokyo December 13, 2017

H.E. Dr. Bahar Abu Garda, Minister of Health of the Sudan

H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr, Minister of Health of Senegal

H.E. Dr. Cleopa Mailu, Cabinet Secretary for Health of Kenya

Ambassador Masahiko Kiya, Deputy Assistant Minister, Deputy Director-General, African Affairs Department, Middle Eastern Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Marie-Greitti Harakeye, Head of Division, AIDS, TB and Malaria in the African Union

Dr. Marije Wijnrkos, Interim Executive Director, the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Excellences and Dear colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen

First and foremost let me welcome you to the African Ambassadors' briefing on the African Union Health Agenda and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria priorities in Africa within the context of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hosted by Algeria and Eritrea and co-organized by the African Union Commission, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Japan Center for International Exchange and allow me also to wish all participants of todays meeting - a constructive deliberations.

As we all know, our African governments are committed in improving the health care system and making progress to meeting the MDGs and SDGs for the sector. Our governments' underlying principles on an important determinant of economic growth and poverty eradication are the improvements in health outcomes. It is well known that better human health leads to improved learning and an increased productivity. In most of our African countries, programs focused on prevention and control, especially in the area of communicable diseases, reproductive health, child health, and nutrient deficiencies for children under five and mothers, have been implemented with a success but major challenges still remain ahead of us.

Though demographic and health surveys made about our African continent show great strides made in combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and TBs special care must be made on the continued sustainability of the fight of this pandemic to the end. It is important to note here that the efforts of our governments as well as the effective partnership that was key to the funding of such programs and their successful implementations i.e. through Global Fund, World Bank/WHO and other sources doesn't dwindle. In line with the TICAD VI Nairobi Declaration the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in our collective engagements here in Japan has been keen in promoting the

strategic interest of Africa in general and the different programs related to economic diversification, industrialization, improvements of health systems and social stability of the continent in particular. Therefore, without much ado, let me conclude my statement by saying the ADC welcomes and is ready to work in collaboration, hand-in-hand with Global Fund to promote the improvements of health systems in our African countries to achieve their objectives with especial emphasis on the SDGs.

Definitely the battle to defeat the pandemic of AIDS, TB and malaria must be a priority of the priorities in the TICAD process as well as in our countries health programs in Africa. Be rest assured that in this meeting that the ADC shall continue to jointly promote with Global Fund, the Africa Union and all other stakeholders this objective on the long march to reach its successful end i.e. total eradication of AIDS, TB and Malaria from the continent of Africa.

Thank you and we are all ears,



African Ambassadors briefing on the African Union's Health Agenda and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Priorities in Africa within the context of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals

Host: His Excellency, Amb. Estifanos Afeworki, Ambassador of Eritrea and Dean of the African Ambassadors in Japan and His Excellency, Amb. Mohamed El Amine Bencherif, Ambassador of Algeria to Japan

Co-organizers: The African Union Commission, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and Japan Center for International Exchange

Audience: African Ambassadors

Date and Time: 13 December 2017 and 10:00-11:30 am

Venue: Embassy of Algeria at 2 Chome-10-67 Mita, Meguro, Tokyo 153-0062

Background

Agenda 2063's vision for socio-economic and structural transformation is predicated on how Africa harnesses its increasing youthful population bulge into a demographic dividend. The health and well-being of Africans is both foundational and fundamental to Africa's bold and ambitious agenda. To ensure a healthier, more secure future, Africa has thus embarked on an historic effort to lay the foundation for sustainable health and development for all. The African Union's Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030) and the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Eliminate Malaria by 2030 provide key goals, strategies and milestones for the journey towards a healthy and prosperous Africa. The targets set in these African Frameworks are in sync with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that lay a great emphasis on health, and calls for ending AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria by 2030.

New HIV infections in Africa declined by 40% between 2000 and 2015. Africa is leading the world in expanding access to antiretroviral treatment (ART), with 12.0 million people on ART, up from less than 100,000 in 2002. Five out of eight people on ART are currently living in Africa south of the Sahara. Considerable progress has already been made towards the set goals, however significant challenges remain. HIV continues to spread, particularly among women and girls – 7,000 girls aged 15-24 are infected with HIV every week. To end AIDS by 2030, 90 percent of people living with HIV should be tested, 90 percent should be started on ART treatment, and 90 percent should achieve viral suppression by 2020.

In Africa, the continent with the highest malaria burden, the percentage of people at risk for malaria who have access to mosquito nets grew from 6 percent in 2005 to 35 percent in 2010 and 62 percent in 2015 in countries where the Global Fund invests. The proportion of the population at risk in Africa south of the Sahara who are infected with malaria parasites is estimated to have declined from 17 percent in 2010 to 13 percent in 2015. The number of people infected with malaria parasites in Africa south of the Sahara is estimated to have decreased from 131 million in 2010 to 114 million in 2015.

In 2015, TB surpassed HIV as the deadliest infectious disease in the world and more than 4 million cases of TB go undiagnosed, untreated or unreported every year. Most of the estimated number of cases of TB occurred in Asia (61%) and in Africa (26%). The case fatality ratio in 2015 varied from under 5% in a few countries to more than 20% in most countries in Africa. This shows considerable inequalities among countries in access to TB diagnosis and treatment that needs to be addressed. There is also an urgent need to ensure accelerated efforts to address TB/HIV co-infection and strengthen mechanisms to increase coverage and access to services for detection and treatment of TB and Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB). To end TB as epidemics, we need to ensure that we reach, find, treat and cure all those millions in need in Africa and ensure that there is zero discrimination in communities, workplaces and health facilities.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria continues to play a fundamental role in stemming the tide against these three diseases. The Global Fund mobilizes and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support more than 100 countries and communities most in need, of which 65 percent are invested in the

African continent. Between 2002 and 2016, the Global Fund has invested USD 23 billion in Africa. The Global Fund partnership has saved 7.9 million lives in Africa, with 9.2 million people now on antiretroviral therapy for HIV, 4.7 million people receiving TB treatment and 666 million mosquito nets distributed to protect families from malaria, as of end of 2015. More than one-third of Global Fund investments go toward building resilient and sustainable systems for health, which are critical to the fight against HIV, TB and malaria, improving the quality of health care overall, and enabling countries to respond to emerging health threats.

To achieve Agenda 2063 aspirations, the SDGs and end AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics by 2030, there is need for shared responsibility and global solidarity. Strengthened partnerships and action are critical now more than ever before. This is why it is critical to brief African Ambassadors in Japan on the ongoing efforts at policy and programmatic levels in Africa. African Ambassadors have played a key advocacy role for the Global Fund's replenishment at TICAD VI in Kenya in 2016 and will continue to play a critically important role in ensuring that this 21st century public-private partnership continues to deliver on its key mandate in the most efficient and strategic way. The support of the Africa Group Ambassadors in various donor markets and in countries of origin will be very critical for the Fund's Sixth Replenishment conference in 2019, which will be the same year TICAD VII will be held in Japan.

The brief will focus on the following:

- Key achievements, challenges and actions in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa within the context of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Fundamental role of the Africa Group in Japan in advocating the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment in 2019.

AGENDA

MC: Mr Tawanda Chisango, Programme Advocacy and Partnerships Expert, AUC

10:00-10:10 Welcome Remarks from co-hosts

- H. E. Ambassador Afeworki Estifanos, Embassy of Eritrea (5 minutes)
- H. E. Ambassador Mohamed El Amine Bencherif, Embassy of Algeria (5 minutes)

10:10-10:20 Opening remark

- Marie-Goretti Harakeye, Head of Division, AIDS, TB and Malaria, African Union Commission (5 minutes)
- Dr Marijke Wijnkos, interim Executive Director, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

10:20-10:35 Presentation:

- H.E. Dr Bahar Idris Abu Garda, Minister of Health of the Sudan (5 minutes)
- H.E. Dr Cleopa Mailu, Cabinet Secretary for Health of Kenya (5 minutes)
- H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr Minister of Health of Senegal (5 minutes)

10:35-10:40 Presentation: "The Global Fund update on Fifth and Sixth Replenishment and on key issues"

- Dr Christoph Benn, Director of External Relations (5 minutes)

10:40-10:45 Presentation: update from the African Union on the partnership with the Global Fund

- Dr Marie Goretti Harakeye, Head of Division, AIDS, TB and Malaria, African Union Commission (5 minutes)

10:45-10:55 Q & A discussion (10 minutes)

10:55-11:00 Closing remark (5 minutes)

- Ambassador Masahiko Kiya, Deputy Assistant Minister, Deputy Director-General, African Affairs Department, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan

11:00-11:30

Followed by refreshments