



## CONCEPT NOTE

### MEETING OF AIDS WATCH AFRICA (AWA) ACTION COMMITTEE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 14 JULY 2012

#### I. INTRODUCTION

In 2000 and 2001 at the Abuja Special Summits, African Heads of State and Government respectively adopted the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Roll Back Malaria, and on HIV/AIDS, TB and Other Related Infectious diseases. At the 2001 Special Summit, eight Heads of State and Government joined hands and created AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) as an advocacy platform to spearhead implementation and resource mobilization. Originally coordinated from Abuja, the AWA Secretariat was relocated to the AU Commission in 2004. In 2006 through the leadership of AWA Head of States and Government, the 'Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Services in Africa by 2010' was adopted. Its mandate was extended to 2015 to coincide with the MDGs, during the Kampala AU Assembly, July 2010. Due to many other challenges to be addressed on the continent, advocacy by AWA diminished during the second half of the last decade. However, as the MDG target year approaches, the need to revitalize AWA to lead high level advocacy in mobilization of resources and more effective action was acknowledged.

Therefore, AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) was re-launched by the adoption of a decision by the AU Assembly (Assembly/AU/Dec.5 (XVIII)) of January 2012 on Revitalization of AWA, as an advocacy, mobilization and accountability platform of Heads of State and Government for mobilizing action and resources, for stronger leadership, not only for HIV/AIDS, but also Malaria and TB. This high level platform is spearheaded by the Action Committee comprising Heads of State and Government (Champions) and the Chairperson of the AU Commission. The Consultative Experts Committee prepares the programme and activities of the AWA Action Committee, including documentation for its Meetings. The AWA is coordinated by a Secretariat at the AU Commission, and works in close collaboration with selected partners involved in HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria control.

The Assembly's decision to revitalize AWA could not have come at a better time. Although progress has been achieved in controlling the three diseases, Africa is nowhere near reaching the MDG targets by 2015, unless more resources are mobilized and utilized more rationally.

African dependency on external resources is destabilizing the HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria response and raises serious challenges. Two-thirds of all AIDS expenditure in Africa come from external sources. In the past three years, international investment for AIDS has fallen by

more than 13%. Investment needs for HIV/AIDS control is estimated to be US\$3-4 billion more than the current expenditures in 2015<sup>1</sup>. Regarding malaria control, investment needs for the Roll Back Malaria<sup>2</sup> (RBM) Global Malaria Action Programme (GMAP) are estimated at US\$26.9 billion for 2012-2015 the funding gap is estimated at US\$9.7 billion or US\$2.4 billion per year. The decision of the Global Fund to cancel Round 11 for disbursement due to lack of funding poses a severe threat to the significant gains made by the continent in the past decade in fighting these three diseases and in meeting the MDG targets. WHO<sup>3</sup> reports that funding for Tuberculosis from domestic and donor sources is expected to amount to \$4.4 billion in 2012, up from \$3.5 billion in 2006; however, countries are reporting funding gaps of close to \$1 billion in 2012.

Furthermore, Decision No. Assembly/AU/Dec.413 (XVIII) on the Report of Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee on the NEPAD requested the AU Commission and NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) in collaboration UNAIDS to work out a road map of shared responsibility to draw on African efforts for viable health funding with support of traditional and emerging partners to address AIDS dependency response.

The revitalized AWA needs a clear strategy in coordinating AWA accountability and advocacy. It is in view of the foregoing that the following two meetings will be organized by the AU Commission, in collaboration with UNAIDS:

1. The Annual Meeting of the AWA Consultative (Member States) Experts Committee will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20-21 June 2012. It will examine the draft document on the future direction of AWA, and the draft Roadmap on Shared Responsibilities for Africa's HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Response to be submitted to the AWA Action Committee.
2. A Meeting of the AWA Action Committee is planned as a Side Event during the July 2012 AU Assembly, and is very important in setting the pace for the high level advocacy by Heads of State and Government or their representatives. It will adopt the 'Future Direction of AWA 2012-2015' and consider the 'Roadmap on Shared Responsibilities for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Response'. The Action Committee Meeting will take the form of a 1-2 hour Breakfast Meeting will be held in Lilongwe, Malawi, as a Side Event of the Summit. It will be hosted and chaired by the AU Chairperson, H.E President Boni Yayi, the President of Benin in his capacity as the Chairperson of AWA. The Head of State of the host country, Malawi, Her Excellency President Joyce Banda will also have a significant role to play. The Action Committee Breakfast Meeting will be followed by a Press Conference with national, regional and international media.

The outcome of the Action Committee Meeting will be presented to the AU Assembly for endorsement (see approved Agenda of the Summit).

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<sup>1</sup> AIDS Dependency Crisis" Sourcing African Solutions, UNAIDS 2012

<sup>2</sup> [www.rbm.who.int/gmap/1-4.html](http://www.rbm.who.int/gmap/1-4.html)

<sup>3</sup> [www.irinnews.org/Report/94355/HEALTH-TB-programming-research-slowed-by-inadequate-funding](http://www.irinnews.org/Report/94355/HEALTH-TB-programming-research-slowed-by-inadequate-funding)

## **II. OBJECTIVES OF AWA MEETINGS:**

1. The main objectives of the Consultative Experts Committee Meeting include:
  - i. To develop draft strategies and action plans on the Future Direction of AWA 2012-2015);
  - ii. To review and revise the draft Roadmap on Shared Responsibility for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Response.
2. The main objectives of the Action Committee Meeting include:
  - i. To adopt strategies and action plans on the Future Direction of AWA 2012-2015); and the Roadmap on Shared Responsibility for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Response;
  - ii. Highlight the leadership, advocacy and accountability role AWA played and can still play in the response to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa – including in providing oversight of the implementation of the Shared Responsibility Roadmap.
  - iii. Adopt main recommendations and way forward on Africa's response to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2015.

## **III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF AWA MEETINGS:**

The expected outcomes of the AWA Meetings are as follows:

1. Consultative Experts Committee Meeting:
  - i. Draft of the Future Direction of AWA;
  - ii. Draft Roadmap on Shared Responsibility for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Response.
2. Action Committee Meeting:
  - i. Strategies and action plans on the Future Direction of AWA 2012-2015) and the Roadmap on Shared Responsibility for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Response;
  - ii. The advocacy and leadership role AWA played and can still play in the response to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa highlighted;
  - iii. Adopt a Decision on the main recommendations and way forward on Africa's response to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

## **IV. ORGANISATION OF MEETINGS:**

The two Meetings will be organized by the AU Commission, in collaboration with the UNAIDS.

1. The AWA Consultative Experts Committee Meeting:  
It will be held in Addis Ababa from 20-21 June 2012.

Participants will include 2 Experts from each of the AWA Action Committee Member States, Host of Summit, Chairperson of the AU Conference of Ministers of Health.

The Representatives of RECs, RHOs, UN Agencies and other regional and International organizations and CSOs will participate as observers. Altogether, about 70 participants are envisaged. The meeting will be chaired by the Representative of the AU Chairperson, Benin Expert.

## 2. AWA Action Committee (Breakfast) Meeting:

The Breakfast Meeting of AWA Heads of State and Government Action Committee will be held as a Side Event on 14 July 2012, starting at 08.30 hours. It will be hosted and chaired by the AU Chairperson, H.E President of Benin.

All AWA Action Committee Heads of State and Government, the host of the Summit, the President of Liberia who is also the current Chair of African Leaders Malaria alliance (ALMA), members of the NEPAD Steering Committee, and other Leaders who are champions or interested in the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. The Breakfast Meeting will be followed by a Press Conference.

A few selected representatives of the following will attend as Observers: UN Agencies, Bilateral and Multi-lateral Agencies and initiatives, one continental CSO and two Former Presidents who have championed HIV/AIDS, TB or Malaria.

## V. DOCUMENTATION:

### Working documents

The AWA Consultative Experts Committee Meeting:

- i. Draft on the Future Direction of AWA;
- ii. Draft Roadmap on Shared Responsibilities HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Response;
- iii. Provisional Agenda and Programmes of Work (see drafts).

AWA Action Committee (Breakfast) Meeting:

- i. Draft on the Future Direction of AWA;
- ii. Draft Roadmap on Shared Responsibilities HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Response;
- iii. Provisional Agenda and Programmes of Work (see drafts).

### Reference Documents

**AWA Consultative Experts Committee Meeting:**

- i. AWA Revitalization Concept Document 2012-2015 ;
- ii. Decision by the AU Assembly (Assembly/AU/Dec.5 (XVIII) of January 2012 on Revitalization of AWA;
- iii. Africa's Common Position on UNGASS on HIV/AIDS;

- iv. AU Document on launch of Malaria Elimination Campaign;
- v. Abuja Call for Accelerated Action Towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, and Malaria Services in Africa;
- vi. Global Plan Towards Elimination of new Infections among Children and Keeping their Mothers Alive;
- vii. June 2011 UNGA High-Level Meeting on AIDS: 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;
- viii. Documents of UN and partners on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria and strengthening of health systems and universal access to health services.

**AWA Action Committee (Breakfast) Meeting:**

- i. AWA Revitalization Concept Document 2012-2015;
- ii. Decision by the AU Assembly (Assembly/AU/Dec.5 (XVIII) of January 2012 on Revitalization of AWA;
- iii. Brochures on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

**VI. WORKING LANGUAGES**

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English and French. The working documents for the Consultative Meeting will be available in English and French, while those for the AWA Action Committee and the Assembly will be in the four AU working languages.

**VII. CONTACT**

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