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**AIDS WATCH AFRICA (AWA) CONSULTATIVE EXPERTS  
COMMITTEE MEETING CONAKRY, REPUBLIC OF GUINEA  
8-9 May 2017**

## **AIDS WATCH AFRICA PROGRESS REPORT**

## Introduction

This report provides an update on the implementation of the AIDS Watch Africa Assembly Decision on the Report of AIDS Watch Africa (2012-2015) which was considered in July 2016 by the Heads of State and Government in Kigali, Rwanda. The report provides an update on the implementation of the 2016 key AWA Experts Report Recommendations, highlights some key strategic results based on the AWA pillars and provides a summary of the implementation of the 2016 Africa Heads of State and Government Decisions.

## Progress on Implementation of the AWA Experts 2016 Recommendations

- 1. Development of AWA Strategic Framework (2016-2030)** – The AIDS Watch Secretariat developed a Draft AWA Strategy (2016-2030) with five key pillars which are (1) leadership and governance, (2) political support and ownership, (3) mobilisation of an Effective Response and Sufficient Resources, (4) Accountability and Oversight for Results and (5) Information for Action. The AWA Strategic Framework is anchored upon the following strategic pillars (1) bold policies, coordination and supporting systems, (2) strategic partnerships and multisectoral approach, (3) institutionalisation of AWA, (4) health financing strategic initiatives and accountability and (5) strategic information and public communication. The strategy was reviewed by an external consultant who interviewed various key stakeholders working with AWA at various levels.
- 2. Development of AWA Advocacy, Communication and Resources Mobilisation Strategy-** This strategy will be developed in the next quarter to align with the new AWA Strategic Framework.
- 3. Alignment of the Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria with Regional and National Strategic Plans-** The development of the Catalytic Framework involved an iterative consultation process with Member States at the continental level and in consultation with the United Nations Entities, development partners, civil society and private sector to ensure alignment of plans with global, regional and national targets in Africa. In November 2016 the Africa Partnership and Coordination Forum that includes Regional Economic Communities, Regional Health Organisations, AU Organs, Civil Society, development Partners and the Civil Society in Africa was established to coordinate the implementation of the Catalytic Framework and related continental health policies and instruments. AIDS Watch Africa continues to deploy its digital assets including a dedicated website, listservs targeting various strategic publics and social media to promote information sharing in the implementation of the Catalytic Framework.
- 4. Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health-**The Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health was adopted by the Heads of State and Government in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2016. The Summit further decided that the Scorecard will be produced annually as a management tool for governments that will help with financial planning for the health sector and with monitoring performance. The Scorecard has been widely disseminated using AIDS Watch Africa Digital Assets and Communities of Practice. The institutionalisation of the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health depends on three factors. The first pillars is to build on existing institutions, mechanisms,

protocols & processes. Based on this the African Union has assigned responsibility to WHO, Member States have adopted SHA2011 NHA methodology and Member States continue to conduct data collection, under WHO guidance and supervision.

The second critical pillar is to ensure political commitment to institutionalise and regularise the collection of health financing data. AU Member States have committed to conducting NHA annually and have started to roll out SHA2011. The third and very important pillar is to fully fund the implementation of NHA. The AU Member States committed to finance the annual implementation of NHA or seek development partner support to do so and significant investment in NHA by Global Fund and the Gates Foundation.

5. **AIDS Watch Africa Champions-** AWA will identify and work with champions at ministerial level to promote advocacy, resource mobilisation and accountability in the fight against the three diseases and identify alternatively identify vocal former Heads of State and Government who are passionate about the health agenda. AWA has already started engaging with Ministers of Health in advocacy for the Global Fund Replenishment and in health financing more broadly. These champions are respected leaders who are vocal, consistent advocates for increased domestic funding for HIV, TB, and Malaria prevention and treatment in the region. They also play an important role in promoting accountability towards meeting the Abuja targets and supporting continental and global resource mobilisation efforts.
6. **Strengthening Partnerships with the Private Sector-** the African Union Commission is actively engaging the private sector through its statutory platforms and the Partnership and Coordination Forum. A strategic partnership has been established with the Africa Health Business Forum. In October 2016 chapters of the Africa Health Care Federations from the five AU regions launched the Africa Healthcare Federation that will play an important role in representing the private sector in collaboration with governments and development partners. The federation is also set to lead advocacy efforts for the strengthening of health systems. It will further spearhead the development of quality and uniform standards of health care delivery across the continent. This will play a critical role towards the bold targets set in Agenda 2063 for healthy and well-nourished citizens. The launch of the federation was preceded by the Africa Health Business Symposium to facilitate intra-regional discussion that can further strengthen the roles played by both the private, public and development sectors. The dialogue focused on healthcare financing strategies, digital technologies, fostering investments through private public partnerships, human resources for health, supply chain management and policy and regulations.
7. **Streamlining continental coordination mechanisms-** The first Partnership and Coordination Forum was held in November in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting committed to priority actions to support the implementation for the Catalytic Framework. The Forum will harmonise all coordination efforts to support countries by AU organs, Regional Economic Communities, development partners and non-state actors towards the implementation of the AU Catalytic Framework and related AU policy frameworks. During the meeting, partners working at the regional level committed to priority actions to support the implementation for the Catalytic Framework. The African Union Commission

will accelerate advocacy efforts for increased investments in health; further strengthen leadership and governance for the three diseases and strengthen strategic information for evidence informed policies and programmes. Regional intergovernmental organisations will support information sharing among Member States, engage leadership for the three disease areas at the appropriate level, advocate for increased domestic financing for the three diseases, support availability of strategic information and alignment of continental with national level strategic plans. Development partners through advocacy, strategic information, resource mobilisation and technical support will support these African intergovernmental processes. They will further facilitate integrated management of the three diseases at national level. Non-state actors will popularize and support the domestication of the Catalytic Framework, support information sharing and support the reporting mechanisms on the implementation of the Catalytic Framework.

## **Summary of Key Strategic Results**

### **Leadership and Governance**

- African Heads of State and Government in Kigali, Rwanda in 2016 endorsed the AIDS Watch Africa Report with key advocacy issues on AIDS, TB and Malaria.
- African Leaders considered the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health as an advocacy tool for Member States to use in financial planning and expenditure tracking.
- The meeting endorsed the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030), the Maputo Plan of Action (2016-2030) for the Operationalisation of the Continental Policy Framework on Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights and the Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030.
- African Parliamentarians convened jointly by AIDS Watch Africa and the Pan African Parliament in November 2016 developed an action plan to support the implementation of the Africa Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030. Outreach to Parliaments also included briefings to provide information on the AU health policy direction.
- The draft treaty of the Africa Medicines Agency (AMA) to be established by 2018 is being finalised with one remaining round of continental consultations on the Draft Treaty and implementation of the milestones towards the establishment of the institution. The Commission will subsequently submit the draft Treaty to a meeting of the Ministers of Health, as a Working Group of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Health, Population and Drug Control for onward transmission to the STC on Justice Legal Affairs and the Secretariat – AUC, NEPAD Agency and WHO - with the support of other partners to fast track the implementation of the milestones.
- . The African Medicines Agency will contribute towards effective regulatory harmonisation across the continent. The Specialised Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control in April 2016 approved the proposal to establish a Fund for Africa's Pharmaceutical Development as a key ingredient towards the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa Business Plan. This is urgently needed to ensure adequate funding to support current plans for pharmaceutical development in Africa.
- During the Specialised Technical Committee Meeting on Health, Population and Drug Control Ministers endorsed the following recommendations to expand the fiscal space for health-tap into macroeconomic conditions (GDP growth) combined with greater domestic

revenue mobilisation (improved tax administration, tax policy reforms); prioritise health within the government budget; earmarking taxes for health and sector specific resources; continued mobilisation of Official Development Assistance (ODA) including aid and debt relief and improved efficiency in health spending and Public-Private Partnerships. The ministers requested the AU to develop an indicator to measure efficiency and value for money invested.

### **Political Support and Ownership**

- The AWA 2016 Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.619 (XXVII)) on the AIDS Watch Africa Report provided a clear mandate for key policy actions for implementation.

### **Mobilisation of an Effective Response & Sufficient Resources**

- AIDS Watch Africa advocacy at the Global level including continued engagement with major donor governments through working with global advocacy constituencies in the United States of America, Europe and Japan contributed to the successful USD15 billion ask to the Global Fund.
- Furthermore, through continental advocacy efforts with Member States African countries contributed USD32 million to the 5th Global Fund Replenishment. Part of the Global Fund Replenishment advocacy outreach strategy included advocacy outreach to parliamentarians in Europe such as the advocacy event organised in Berlin, Germany and engagement with the Africa Group of Ambassadors in Brussels.
- The number of African countries that pledged to support the Global Fund increased from 4 to 10.
- African Union continues to ensure that key messages on health financing and salient issues remain high on the political agenda through focused advocacy events or statements during international observances. AIDS Watch Africa organised key events during World AIDS Day 2016 (Togo), World TB Day (at the African Union Commission during the Specialised Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control) and issued a media statement during World Malaria Day 2017.

### **Accountability and Oversight for Results**

- Catalytic Framework provides key milestones, targets and timelines for the three diseases;
- Africa Scorecard for Domestic Financing for Health, a key management tool for governments that will help with financial planning for the health sector and with monitoring performance.
- Africa Health Stats provides key data on AIDS, TB, Malaria, MNCH and other health indicators.

### **Information for Action**

- The Study on Expanding the Fiscal Space for Health widely shared with Member States, development partners; civil society and private sector;
- Best Practices on Expanding the Fiscal Space for Health widely shared with Member States, development partners; civil society and private sector;
- Dedicated and targeted listservs for increased information sharing and reach. These include the [www.aidswatchafrica.net](http://www.aidswatchafrica.net) website, 4 dedicated communities of practice on [www.knowledge-gateway.org](http://www.knowledge-gateway.org) targeting parliamentarians, media, partners working at the

continental level and an aidswatchafrica listserv targeting all stakeholders. AIDS Watch Africa social media assets deployed to share timely information on the three diseases.

## **Strategic Pillars**

### **Bold Policies, Coordination and Supporting Systems**

- The Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa by 2030 was adopted by the Heads of State and Government in July 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda. The Strategic Framework which was reviewed by the AWA Experts in 2016 provides a clear vision and bold targets with a business case supported by an implementation plan.
- The AIDS Watch Africa Strategic Framework (2016-2030) that that will advocate for the full implementation of the Catalytic Framework has been developed. This framework will be supported by a communication and advocacy strategy. AIDS Watch Africa will place its strategic focus on intensifying advocacy on policy actions to end AIDS, TB and Malaria as public health threats.
- AIDS Watch Africa continues to strengthen partnerships for the implementation of the Catalytic Framework and convened Partnerships and Coordination Forum bring all key players on AIDS, TB and Malaria and convened the African Parliamentary institutions at continental, regional and national levels to ensure effective joint policy and political advocacy.

### **Strategic Partnerships and Multisectoral Approach**

- Building on already existing partnerships and to streamline coordination at regional and continental levels beginning in November 2016 AWA convenes the Africa Partnership and Coordination Forum annually.
- AIDS Watch Africa continues to work with partners at national and global levels for advocacy for resource mobilisation for global financing institutions such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

### **Health Financing Strategic Initiatives and Accountability**

- Development of specialised studies/case studies on expanding the fiscal space to enhance data driven advocacy for increased health financing.
- Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health developed as a key management tool for governments and advocacy tool for increased investments at national, continental and global levels.

### **Strategic Information and public communication**

- High level advocacy events and public/media messaging during international observances on increased allocation of resources to health.
- Media engagement to establish strong relations for wider coverage.
- Digital platforms to disseminate information about ATM developed.
- Generation of data to create evidence through commissioning of specialised studies.
- Dedicated websites-Africa Health Stats and aidswatchafrica.net.

## Progress on the Implementation of the 2016 Decision on the Report of AIDS Watch Africa

#	Decision on the Report of AIDS Watch Africa	Notable accomplishments and challenges	
	AWA Decision 2016 Assembly/AU/Dec.619 (XXVII)	Accomplishments	Challenges
1.	Requests the Commission in collaboration with WHO and other partners to support countries in strengthening National Health Accounts and submit the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health annually to the Assembly	<p>- The Scorecard is a high level advocacy tool to strengthen health financing towards attaining strengthened Health Systems, in line with the 2013 Abuja Declaration and the Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2030.</p> <p>-The Scorecard helps Member States with financial planning and expenditure tracking.</p> <p>-2016 Africa Scorecard endorsed by Heads of State and Government.</p> <p>-Draft 2017 Africa Scorecard developed and reviewed by the Technical and Advisory Group.</p> <p>-Scorecard is constituted of five indicators which are (1) general government health expenditure per capita; (2) general government health expenditure as a percentage of GDP, (3) general government health</p>	<p>- National Health Accounts data is not updated with the most recent year currently in the database is 2014. WHO plans to have updated data available June/July 2017.</p>

		expenditure as a percentage of general government expenditure, (4) general government health expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure and (5) external resources for health as a percentage of total health expenditure.	
2.	Invites Member States to share best practices on innovative and domestic financing for health and APPEALS to Member States to explore innovative mechanisms in order to increase the allocation of domestic financing for health including health insurance schemes	<p>-Best Practices on Domestic Financing for Health Published and Shared widely.</p> <p>-Study on Expanding the Fiscal Space for Health Published and disseminated widely.</p>	
3	Requests the Commission in partnership with all stakeholders to conduct a wide consultative process to develop the new AWA Strategic Framework (2016-2020);	-AWA Strategic Framework Developed.	
4.	Calls upon Member States and other to support the 5th Replenishment Target of the Global Fund in order to end AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria as public health threats by 2030, and to build resilient and sustainable health systems;	<p>-AIDS Watch Africa worked with various global advocacy constituencies in New York, Washington, Europe and Japan to advocate for the replenishment.</p> <p>-AIDS Watch Africa engaged with various Governments in Africa to contribute towards replenishment and the following countries pledged to the fund, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Zimbabwe which. Countries that pledged increased from 4 to 10 countries.</p>	



5.	Invites Member States to ensure that Environmental and Social Impact Assessments of large capital projects incorporate health considerations by improving the costing, allocation and monitoring of health mitigation measures;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Draft guidelines on strengthening health and gender in impact assessment processes in Africa revised.</li> <li>– Draft implementation strategy /concept note to operationalise the 2016 AWA recommendation to be used for resource mobilisation.</li> <li>– Mapping of current Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa projects done.</li> </ul>	