

AFRICAN UNION

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**4th INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON COORDINATION
AND HARMONIZATION OF HIV/AIDS, TB AND
MALARIA STRATEGIES**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 12-14 March 2012

EXECUTIVE'S MEETING

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY
Adv. BIENCE GAWANAS
COMMISSIONER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

As stated in my opening remarks, it is always a privilege for me to address important gatherings as this one. I am pleased with the outcome of this meeting and I once again appreciate your commitments. The continent is looking up to us to reduce the HIV/AIDS, TB & Malaria burden that keeps threatening our development, and this burden can only be reduced through hard work as we have done in this meeting.

The global community is currently engaged in reviewing the progress towards the attainment of the MDGs, particularly, the health-related MDGs 4,5,& 6. As concerns Africa, it is clear that significant progress has been recorded in the fight against HIV/AIDS on the continent. Even with these advances, we would have to avoid complacency and do even more over the next 35 years as we count down to zero new infections and AIDS-related deaths. It is no news to you that the fight against HIV and AIDS, TB, Malaria and other infectious diseases remains top priority on the agendas of many African countries, and for that reason, I would like to call for unified reporting and consistent figures in the spirit of inter-agency collaboration.

Let me once again, on behalf of the African Union Commission, express my appreciation of this Inter-Agency partnership.

I thank all partners that were involved in its preparations and deliberations, including my staff in the Department of Social Affairs. I wish to call upon all partners to implement the resolutions of this meeting and to effectively report back to the 5th IAM.

As we reinforce our efforts to make progress towards the attainment of the MDGs, with 2015 around the corner, I wish to call upon all the stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and create the necessary synergy to optimize the impact of our interventions.

Let us work together to deliver as one. Let us take advantage of the numerous opportunities for synergy. The AUC shall always make itself available to work with partners to implement the resolutions of this meeting.

I thank you for your kind participation and I wish you a safe return to your work places