

Invest in HIV and Health R&D

A call to ACTION by CSOs attending HIV Prevention Research Meeting

Nairobi, Kenya

17-18 May 2016

We, representatives of African Civil Society leaders¹ from various constituencies comprising: AIDS and TB Service Organizations, Youth, Key Population groups, PLHIV Networks from eleven Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) countries, met in Nairobi, Kenya on 17th – 18th May, 2016;

- **Responding** to HIV&AIDS, TB and other Health issues in ESA;
- **Recognizing** the lessons learned and progress made by ESA countries in stabilising and/or decreasing disease incidence of new infections;
- **Noting** the need to continue to increase the number of people accessing quality, affordable and essential health services in the age of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 inspires faith that the SDGs are within reach.;
- **Alarmed** that HIV, TB and other disease burdens continue to disproportionately affect Sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for nearly 70% of the global total;
- **Concerned** about the declining investment in prevention strategies that has led to an increase in the number of infections among young people;
- **Worried** that the gains made during the past decade are under threat due to weak health and community systems; frequent interruption of services, in particular stock-outs of essential drugs; and the lack of long-term, sustainable funding from international actors, bilateral partners, and African governments;
- **Cognisant** of the need to use innovative approaches in order to stem the rising tide against disease burdens;

Call upon all concerned stakeholders to acknowledge that we will not end life-threatening epidemics such AIDS and TB unless we significantly:

1. Expand investment in research and development for improved diagnostics, easier and more tolerable treatment regimes, vaccines and other preventive technologies as well as a cure;
2. Ensure affordability by aligning trade rules and public health objectives under a human rights framework;
3. Ensure the achievement of health SDGs in Africa now more than ever, through renewed political will and commitment and allocation of adequate funding and bold action.
4. Encourage a coordinated and collaborative approach towards the exchange among countries and regions of information, research, evidence and best practices for implementing the measures and commitments related to Health and R&D.
5. Harmonise R&D regulatory frameworks, policies and processes
6. Support development and implementation of Policies on intellectual property so as to accelerate access to and delivery of newly found efficacious products for treatment and prevention.

Call upon African governments to accelerate the realization of health targets under the SDGs in Africa through:

1. Budgetary allocation of at least 15%² of national budgets to health so as to increase funding to accelerate R&D for newer and improved health technologies including HIV new prevention technologies.
2. Budgetary allocation of at least 2%³ of national budgets to health R&D
3. Costed plans along with earmarked domestic and international resources for HIV and TB prevention research implementation

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¹ 38 participants, 11 countries

² Abuja Declaration, 2000

³ Bamako declaration, 2008