

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
 PAIX - TRAVAIL – PATRIE

 MINISTERE DE LA SANTE PUBLIQUE

 CABINET DU MINISTRE



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
 PEACE - WORK – FATHERLAND

 MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

 MINISTER'S OFFICE

GLOBAL HIV PREVENTION COALITION MEETING

DECLARATION OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF CAMEROON

GENEVE 10/10/2017

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,
Mrs Chair,

I would like to thank the organizers of this inaugural meeting of the Global Prevention Coalition and also for the opportunity to contribute to the vision of revolutionizing HIV prevention programmes at country level.

Although Cameroon has made significant effort to put more people on treatment (227 000 PLHIV are on ART) and stay on track towards achieving the ambitious 90-90-90 targets%, the country is still the second most affected country in the WCA Region and is listed among the countries where new infection rates have stagnated in the last few years amongst young people 15-24 years old.

This is why my Government welcomes and support the new coalition of **Political Leaders, Prevention Programmers** and **Civil Society Activists** to galvanize efforts to implement and scale up HIV primary prevention programmes and mobilize young people as agents of change at country level.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,
Mrs Chair,

In this context, we are among the countries who have already conducted a Rapid Assessment of HIV Prevention Strategies and Systems and also held a National stakeholders consultation in September 2017

With the technical support of our partner (UNAIDS, UNICEF , UNFPA and WHO) the consultation was attended by 75 people representing different sectoral ministerial departments, civil society, key populations, adolescents and young people, the private sector, the media and the research community.

Stakeholders at this national consultations confirmed and defined national prevention targets; identified key programme achievements, gaps and bottlenecks; and agreed on commitments and milestones for strengthening prevention policies, programmes and implementation. The National Consultation was committed to strengthening prevention in the national HIV response in Cameroon. To this end, a road map has been adopted and the next steps validated.

We have improved our response with the implementation of the “***Test and Treat***” strategy, **Task shifting to community.** We have increased our ART coverage from 24% to 38% in just one year. The extension of the PMTCT/Option B + in all health facilities brought the coverage to 82%. But we still need to make more effort for the pediatric ART coverage which is still very low (19%).

The ALL IN programme has increased the number of adolescents and young people who use HIV prevention services and the integration of comprehensive sexuality education in and out of schools is effective, although the coverage is still limited and therefore requires rapid scale up.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We support and join the Global HIV Prevention Coalition and we endorse its roadmap which already takes into account the recommendations from the National Stakeholders Consultation.

One of the outcomes of the national consultation was the elaboration and adoption of our own roadmap to reach the targets as defined in the 2016 Political declaration on HIV. Among the actions that we committed to implement in the near future:

- ⦿ Improvement of the HIV prevention leadership, oversight and management with the operationalization of the multisectoral HIV prevention working group which will provide technical support in the implementation of the national roadmap and solutions to bottlenecks;
- ⦿ Promotion of the accessibility, distribution and utilization of condom through the implementation of a comprehensive Condom Programming as part of a comprehensive reproductive health strategy to combat HIV, STI and unwanted pregnancies , including a sustainable financing plan
- ⦿ Extension and strengthening Behavior Change interventions through modern communication channel (social media, internet) and school curricula in order to reach a large audience of young people.
- ⦿ In the framework of the new National Strategic Plan 2018-2022, we will define HIV prevention package for key population, Adolescents and young women

To implement all this, we will need more technical and financial resources, this is why we will assess available resources (internally and externally) for prevention and develop a strategy to close the financing gap.

In conclusion Ladies and gentlemen let me reiterate our commitment to join the coalition and our support for the road map!

Thank you for your attention!

