

**Inaugural Meeting of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition  
10-11 October 2017  
Grand Hotel Kempinski Geneva**

**Statement  
State Minister of Health  
His Excellency Dr. Kebede Worku  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

*Honourable Ministers*

*Mr. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, UNAIDS*

*Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA*

*Ambassadors*

*Representatives of Donor Community*

*Key partners – The Global Fund; PEPFAR; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (PEPFAR)*

*Civil society Delegates*

*Distinguished partners*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is most pleased to be invited to partner on this important agenda of revitalizing the HIV response and in particular HIV prevention. The establishment of this essential Global Coalition is most welcome as it will serve as an important vehicle for consolidating our collective efforts.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia welcomes the establishment of this coalition and reaffirms our commitment to further the aims and goals of the Global coalition as well as its Roadmap.

*Honourable Ministers*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

Primary prevention is the bed rock of securing good health outcomes and is an approach that Ethiopia has embraced as part of its health strategies from the very inception including through increasing our human resources capacity base to scale up the interventions. To this end, we have trained 38,000 Health Extension Workers. We are committed to continuing to strengthen the implementation of primary prevention as part of this initiative.

The HIV response is a core part of the Ethiopia development agenda as articulated in Growth and Transformation Plan II (GTP II) (2015-2019) which expressly has reduction of HIV incidence as a major indicator of success.

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is fully committed to addressing HIV and we have articulated clear Policies, Programs and Strategies, developed in a multi sectoral manner to enhance partnerships and impact.

*Honourable Ministers  
Ladies and Gentlemen*

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has fully embraced the global targets of 90-90-90:

- We are implementing special initiatives to secure a decentralized HIV response and enhance political commitment in the regions.
- We have developed a National Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and syphilis and
- We are strengthening Federal and Regional structures to effectively address HIV prevention by establishing National Prevention Advisory Groups at Federal and Regional levels.

Additionally, our HIV prevention response focuses on Behavioural Change Communication; Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision and strengthening community based structures like Mother Support Groups and youth focused ones.

We are also implementing targeted interventions to reach Most At Risk Populations including Female Sex Workers and their Clients; Truck Drivers; daily labourers and Prisoners. These targeted interventions are yielding good impact.

*Honourable Ministers  
Ladies and Gentlemen*

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is very pleased to note that the 10 pillars of draft Road Map scheduled to be adopted at this meeting embraces interventions that are already underway in Ethiopia.

Out of the Global coalition 10 point action plan outlined in the Road Map, we reaffirm our commitment to:

- Strengthening prevention accountability structures;
- Developing consolidated prevention capacity building and technical assistance plan and
- Developing or revising our national targets for HIV prevention as part of accelerating our HIV prevention programs.

The Roadmap that we are all adopting will surely require additional domestic and international resources to be realised to the fullest extent. Prevention interventions have always been left behind. This is now an opportunity for this to be corrected with our collective commitment. Moreover, this meeting is an important platform for the international community to reaffirm their support and commit resources to primary prevention. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also commits to do its utmost to mobilise domestic resources for this work.

In conclusion allow me to congratulate and thank His Excellency the Executive Director of UNAIDS, Mr. Michel Sidibé and Her Excellency the Executive Director of UNFPA Dr. Natalia Kanem and partners for the foresight in establishing the Global HIV Prevention Coalition and convening this important meeting.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia looks forward to our continuing collaboration towards Ending AIDS as core part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you. Ameseginalehu