

Remarks by the Minister of Health and Child Care for the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. P.D. Parirenyatwa at the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, 10-11 October 2017

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Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of my delegation and indeed the entire nation of Zimbabwe, I am highly pleased to share with you my country's agreed commitments and milestones for strengthening prevention policies and programmes to achieve the 2020 prevention target with increased investments and policy development.

Before I proceed, let me emphasise the fact that these commitments and milestone are a result of extensive national stakeholders' consultations.

In the past six years, Zimbabwe has recorded significant progress in reducing new HIV infections, which have dropped by more than 50% from 1.42 % in 2011 to 0.48 % in 2016. To ensure this reduction is scaled up to 75% by 2020 in line with global coalition targets. In implementing our Combination Prevention Strategy, Zimbabwe will scale up innovative evidence based strategies for reduction of new HIV infections, including PrEP, self-testing, treatment as prevention, comprehensive condom programming, and VMMC supported by BCC. While we have covered commendable ground in reaching out to sex workers, we still have to scale up interventions for other key populations. To maximise utilisation of services by more at risk and key populations, we have undertaken to explore approaches that go beyond public health response, and infuse a human rights approach. Legal bottlenecks that inhibit utilisation of services, especially HTS by young people below the age of 16 will also be addressed.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you may be aware, Zimbabwe has been championing the HIV prevention revitalization agenda for the eastern and southern African region. To ensure that this process continues and is adequately domesticated, we have already developed a national HIV Prevention Revitalisation Roadmap. To buttress this and promote its implementation, Zimbabwe will mobilise new champions and leaders for HIV prevention in other key public, private and community sectors such as

finance, foreign affairs, planning, traditional and religious leaders, young people, development partners, civil society and communities, parliamentarians and the academia to deliver the prevention mandate. We will also enhance media engagement for better information dissemination through among others social media given its ubiquity.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud that Zimbabwe remains one of the few countries whose strong political commitment has paved way for innovative domestic financing approaches. As you are aware, our National AIDS Trust Fund has emerged as one of the greatest global best practices in the response to HIV and AIDS. The AIDS Levy has served as a major springboard upon which Zimbabwe has been able to attract more resources from donors and partners.

To augment these funds, Zimbabwe will emphasise on efficiency gains and deploy the gains towards HIV prevention. We are also making a strong call for countries to be allowed to retain efficiency savings in GFATM programmes and reprogramme cost savings from procurement towards primary prevention programmes.

One of the ways we also seek to increase domestic resources is through local manufacturing of pharmaceuticals as a long term strategy for sustainable supplies, which I propose should be approached from a regional perspective, building synergies and sharing responsibilities among regional countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, Zimbabwe will also review existing prevention targets to ensure that they are realistic and respond to country needs and epidemic dynamics. In this regard, we will also endeavour to address issues around populations with missing baseline data, such as MSM and IDUs; and undertake population size estimates to enable better coverage and target setting. As part this process, ladies and gentlemen, Zimbabwe will also strengthen efforts and actions towards provision of disaggregated data in routine systems and address gaps in routine monitoring of prevention programmes.

Ladies and gentlemen, a more detailed Zimbabwean report on the progress we have recorded in pursuit of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition targets will be shared during appropriate sessions.

Thank you!