



**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH
KHUMBIZE KANDODO - CHIPONDA, MP
ON
GLOBAL PREVENTION COALITION MINISTERIAL MALAWI
COMMITMENTS
AT
THE GLOBAL HIV PREVENTION COALITION MINISTERIAL
MEETING
18TH NOVEMBER 2020**



MY COLLEAGUES - HONOURABLE MINISTERS OF HEALTH AND THOSE
RESPONSIBLE FOR HIV AND AIDS

UNAIDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MS WINNIE BYANYIMA

HEADS OF NATIONAL AIDS COMMISSIONS/COUNCILS

THE TECHNICAL TEAM IN MALAWI LED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH
DR CHARLES MWASAMBO

UNAIDS COUNTRY DIRECTOR IN MALAWI, NUHA CEESAY

UNFPA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE IN MALAWI, Ms YOUNG HONG

PEPFAR COORDINATOR IN MALAWI, FUNMI ADESANYA

CIVIL SOCIETY IN MALAWI REPRESENTED BY THE MALAWI NETWORK OF
AIDS SUPPRT ORGANIZATIONS ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MRS
WEZI MJOJO

DISTINGUIHSED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED

Let me congratulate you all for establishing the Global HIV Prevention Coalition and setting very ambitious targets that motivated members and pushed us to focus on the HIV prevention agenda. As perhaps the newest member of the GPC, I am overwhelmed with joy to learn the evolution of the GPC and the remarkable achievements. I am also aware that the HIV prevention efforts, globally, including Malawi, have not given us the desired results as new HIV infections remain high affecting mainly our young people especially adolescent girls and young women.

Our meeting here today is therefore very critical. It will set a new agenda to reinvigorate HIV prevention efforts on a clear road map that enable us reach the targets of ending AIDS as a public health concern by 2030.

As we deliberate, I encourage you all esteemed members, to remain positive, ambitious and determined that collectively we can and we will end AIDS despite challenges further exacerbated by COVID 19 and other humanitarian crises that we continue to face in our respective countries .

Malawi managed to reach the UNAIDS 90:90:90 treatment targets by 2020. As of June 2020, we were at 91:87:94 and are now tracking our progress towards 95:95:95. The scale up of our treatment program has resulted in a lot of infections prevented. For example: due to ART, we have prevented about 82,000 mother-to-child infections from 2010 to 2019.

We have also scaled up optimized treatment regimens. As of June 2020, over 95% of patients on first-line ART were on dolutegravir-containing regimens.

Going forward, we would like to bring to this level of scale to our direct prevention efforts. These will include differentiated HIV testing services, voluntary medical male circumcision, structural challenges and pre-exposure prophylaxis.

When we were faced with COVID-19 the progress we have made in the HIV program was threatened. We used our long experience fighting HIV to support the COVID-19 response. Going forward, we can also learn from COVID-19 response to bring back the sense of urgency in our response. This will to get us back on track and gain the speed we lost due to COVID-19.

My commitments for 2021

As I share my commitments with you, let me reiterate that I am aware that our efforts since 2017 have led to major strides in some areas as well as fallen short of reaching the 2020 milestones in other areas. Hence more effort is required to increase access to services in the general population but more specifically among adolescents girls and young women, men and key and priority populations.

I therefore wish to commit as follows:

1. That we further extend the Global HIV Prevention Coalition to 2025 and all the way to 2030 with focus on setting annual targets

that we will continue to assess and take stock with the view of further increasing our pace and efforts of ending AIDS

2. Lead the advocacy and galvanize government commitment by ensuring that **Political leadership include HIV prevention messages in their public statements**
3. Strongly advocate and provide leadership for the **empowerment of adolescent girls and young women through increased access and retention in secondary education and development of skills** to reduce vulnerability to HIV infections and gender based violence
4. The Government of Malawi commits to **initiating financing dialogues** with key representatives from government, civil society and development partners to increase financial investment for HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health services starting in January 2021;
5. The Government of Malawi commits to **scale-up integrated HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health programmes** for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) to additional districts by 2021 and beyond.