

## **THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL HIV PREVENTION COALITION (GPC) HIV PREVENTION 2021-2025, TAKING STOCK, PLANNING THE FUTURE**

**HOSTED BY UNAIDS AND UNFPA, ON BEHALF OF THE GLOBAL HIV PREVENTION COALITION (GPC) - 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020**

**Chairperson**, I am delighted to join this meeting and present a statement on behalf of The United Republic of Tanzania to highlight the progress we have made and reiterate our commitment to end AIDS by 2030.

**Chairperson**, as we embark on the stocktaking exercise and renew our commitments to expand and amplify HIV prevention efforts for the 2021-2025 period, I am pleased to highlight some key accomplishments to date. Firstly, with regards to Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC), as reflected in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Progress Report and the presented scorecards, Tanzania is one of the three exemplary member states that have achieved 100% of the annual VMMC targets as of 2020. Secondly, with the intent to increase access and uptake of HIV prevention services by adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), in 2019, Tanzania Parliament amended the HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act (HAPCA) which eventuated to lowering the age of consent for HIV testing from 18 to 15 years, and allow HIV self-testing as standard care. Both these changes are envisaged to accelerate efforts to bridging the AGYW HIV treatment gap. This success would not have been possible if it was not for the tireless efforts of the Global Prevention Coalition Secretariat, as well as close coordination and the partnership between the Government, Development Partners, implementing partners, civil society organizations and the community.

**Chairperson**, despite achieving these milestones, we recognize that the rate of decline in new HIV infections among adults remains low. While Tanzania was supposed to have achieved a 68% reduction in new HIV infections from 2010 to 2019 and a subsequent 75% reduction by 2020, the 4<sup>th</sup> Progress Report on HIV Prevention 2020 Road Map revealed a 16% reduction only. This finding is indicative of an imminent need to rapidly scale up investments and efforts in other four o prevention pillars for which GPC goals were not successfully attained. I am pleased to inform you that the foundation for scaling up interventions for other 4 pillars has already been laid down. For instance, Tanzania is planning to increase geographical coverage and targets for AGYW programming; plans for rapidly scaling up HIV, SRH and life skills training targeting in-school AGYW and adolescent boys and young men (ABYM) are also in place; condom programming has been revitalized to include total marketing approach and cascade down condom distribution at community level; and interventions for KPs also continue to be scaled up.

As we plan for the future country actions for HIV prevention (2021-2025), we would like to reiterate our commitment to translate the lessons learned from the successful scale-up of VMMC to inform the next phase plans in alignment with the country context. We will capitalize on meaningful engagement of the civil society organizations, community networks, as well as bilateral and multilateral partners in order to achieve the set goals.

**Chairperson,** we acknowledge the importance of attaining 10-Point Plan Actions of the HIV Prevention Road Map in setting a foundation for success. Therefore, as we

approach the end of the current GPC phase, we are working to address unmet actions in alignment with the country context. For accountability purposes, we will ensure that these interventions, as well as their respective targets are well spelled out in the current Health Sector HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (HSHSP) and Operational Plan, all of which are currently under review to incorporate findings from the recently concluded mid-term review of HSHSP-IV.

**Chairperson,** based on the recent COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected the globe, we acknowledge that the gains in HIV prevention programming may be at stake. In realization of this, Tanzania is planning to continue capacitating and supporting the Health care workers both at facility and community levels to oversee the continuity of HIV prevention, care and treatment services. As new evidence emerges, we will analyze and make necessary adaptations of recommended global policies.

**Chairperson,** finally we would like to recommend that the 2021-2025 actions consider increasing focus on building parenting skills. Parents and guardians are the cornerstones of building a nation of empowered adolescents and youth.

Let me once again take this opportunity to wish all GPC stakeholders a successful journey towards achieving the set goal.