



Commitments from the 2009 Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees on Health in Eastern and Southern Africa

Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda,
21 September 2009



Hosted by: Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO), Regional Network on Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET), African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Southern and East African Parliamentary Alliance of Committees on Health (SEAPACOH)

The Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees on Health in Eastern and Southern Africa, Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda, 21 September 2009, gathered members of parliamentary committees responsible for health from twelve countries and from regional bodies in Eastern and Southern Africa, together with technical, government, civil society and regional partners, to promote information exchange, facilitate policy dialogue and identify key areas of follow up action to advance health equity and sexual and reproductive health in the region. The meeting was held as a follow up to review progress on actions proposed at the September 2008 Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees on Health in Eastern and Southern Africa hosted by the same organisations. This document outlines the commitments to follow up action made at the meeting.

We, the Members of Parliament, participating in the second high level Southern and East African Parliamentary Alliance of Committees on Health (SEAPACOH) meeting convened by the Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO), the Regional Network on Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET), African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) and SEAPACOH, and representing Parliaments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the East African Community, the East African Legislative Assembly and the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum, having reviewed our progress on the resolutions made in 2008, agree to the following way forward for the Southern and East African Parliamentary Alliance of Committees on Health (SEAPACOH), over the next year. We will:

Operationalize the SEAPACOH Strategic Plan, including to

- Have a better understanding of the linkages between reproductive health, family planning, population and development;
- Network within the region with parliaments and with key partners;
- Undertake resource mobilization activities to support the implementation of the plan.

Provide an oversight function on

- The Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases (2001)¹ and the Abuja Call for Accelerated

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Action Towards Universal Access to HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa (2006)², including to:

- participate in and influence budgetary processes to increase the government budget commitments to health towards meeting the Abuja targets and improving per capita allocations to health;
- continuously monitor resources to health to ensure value and public health effectiveness for money, equity in resource allocation and that policies promoting population health are resourced and implemented;
- encourage Public Accounts Committees to incorporate performance auditing)
- The Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalisation of the Continental Policy Framework for on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2007-2010 (2006)³
- The Accra Agenda for Action (2008) (to accelerate and deepen implementation of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness)⁴
- Other health related international agreements and commitments, including to
 - advocate for coordinated country mechanisms that involve parliaments before agreements are reached;
 - have all agreements catalogued and audited by parliament and available for committees;
 - ensure ratification and domestication of those agreements that promote health;
 - monitor implementation and review of agreements to which commitments have been made.

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Support new and innovative programmes to enhance health, reproductive health, family planning, population and development, including through effective public health approaches to prevention of health problems, such as use of DDT spraying for malaria prevention, according to WHO recommendations⁵



Participants to the SEAPACOH, PPD ARO, EQUINET, APHRC meeting September 2009

¹ http://www.un.org/ga/aids/pdf/abuja_declaration.pdf

² http://www.aumission-ny.org/documents/abuja_call.pdf

³ http://www.unfpa.org/africa/newdocs/maputo_eng.pdf

⁴ <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ACCRAEXT/Resources/4700790-1217425866038/AAA-4-SEPTEMBER-FINAL-16h00.pdf>

⁵ <http://apps.who.int/malaria/docs/IRS/DDT/DDTposition.pdf> (The use of DDT in malaria vector control, WHO/GMP position statement, 2007) <http://apps.who.int/malaria/docs/DDT/WHOPositiononDDTUpdate.pdf> (WHO Re-affirms its Position on DDT for Malaria Control, 2009)