

African Union, African Regional Bodies

Resolution on achieving health targets and leaving no one behind

Legislation as at 17 May 2018

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African Union

Resolution on achieving health targets and leaving on one behind

Published on 17 May 2018

Commenced

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CONSIDERING Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which establishes the Pan-African Parliament;

CONSIDERING also Article 3 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, and Rule 3 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament;

RECALLING the endorsement by African Leaders of the Catalytic Framework to end HIV/AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030, with clear targets and milestones and focusing on the guiding principles of country ownership and leadership, financial and political commitment, equal access to health services for vulnerable, key and hard-to-reach populations as well as robust surveillance and response systems;

RECALLING also the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and AIDS by the UN General Assembly to fast-track progress on ending AIDS by 2030 within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 3 relating to Good Health and Well-being and SDG 5 relating to Gender Equality;

CONCERNED that access to affordable quality medicines, vaccines and diagnostics remains a major challenge for many people across Africa, therefore national investments and resource mobilization for health financing is crucial to realize the commitment made in the Abuja Declaration targets of 2001 that requires allocation of 15% of national budget to Health;

RECOGNIZING that the UNAIDS Fast-Track approach to ending HIV/AIDS has facilitated access to life-saving treatment for around 21 million people, representing more than half of all people living with HIV;

RECOGNIZING also that increased high-level political leadership and engagement are needed to reach these ambitious but achievable targets, and that Parliament as an institution, remains a central agent of change to drive social and economic development through oversight and legislative interventions,

STRESSING the importance of building momentum for shared responsibility and global solidarity amongst both governmental and non-governmental entities for concerted efforts to improve the HIV/AIDS situation, TB and other infectious diseases;

TAKING NOTE of the outcomes from the High Level Parliamentary Meeting on "Fast Tracking HIV/AIDS and Leaving No-one Behind"; held on 5 and 6 October 2017 in Midrand, attended by Members of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs, Committee on Gender, Trade and Finance of the Pan African Parliament in collaboration with the UNAIDS and the African Union Commission, Finance, Trade and Health Chairpersons of National and Regional Parliaments, Regional Economic Communities as well as UN Agencies and Civil Society Organizations;

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts made over the last decade on the African continent to come up with standard-setting and normative legal instruments such as the SADC Model Law on HIV in Southern Africa; the East African Community HIV/AIDS Prevention and Management Act of 2012; the ECOWAS Minimum Legal Framework for Rights-Based Responses to HIV/AIDS, and the African Union Model Law on Medical Products Regulation adopted in 2016,

NOW HEREBY RESOLVES TO:

1. **ADVOCATE** for the fulfilment of the Abuja Declaration targets and sustained investments in the health sector to achieve the AU Catalytic Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AU Agenda 2063, the Fast Track targets and the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS;

2. **UNDERScore** the urgency to mobilize national resources by front-loading investments, particularly in the health sector and through innovative mechanisms, including national health insurance, tax and fiscal space, and corporate social responsibility;
3. **ADVOCATE** for the training needs and sensitization of health professionals in addressing stigma and discrimination in health facilities towards people living with HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;
4. **SUPPORT** implementation of the Plan of Action of the Africa High level Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving Health Targets and Leaving No One Behind;
5. **STRENGTHEN** partnership with the AUC and UNAIDS in order to;
 - i. **FACILITATE** the collaboration and exchanges among regional and national parliamentary bodies with a view to enhance the capacity of parliamentarians to monitor all policy and programme areas, as well as the budgetary and legislative activities;
 - ii. **PROMOTE** a reporting mechanism through the Annual Conference of African Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments on the health situation across the continent and the implementation of the Abuja Declaration;
 - iii. **ADVOCATE** for increased pledges from all donor countries during the Sixth Replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 2019;
 - iv. **SUPPORT** the participation of PAP Parliamentarians in World Health Organization and other United Nations Annual High Level Meetings on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;
 - v. **ENCOURAGE** AU Member States to establish mechanisms for effective oversight and accountability of African governments in engagement between the Executive and Legislative branches of government and between parliaments and civil society on the HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria responses;

Adopted at Midrand, South Africa

17 May 2018