



PRESS RELEASE

AFRICAN HEALTH MINISTERS RESOLVE TO MOBILIZE INCREASED DOMESTIC RESOURCES IN ORDER TO MEET HEALTH GOALS

African Ministers of Health met in a Special Session from 14-15 May 2004, in Geneva, Switzerland, prior to the World Health Assembly, in order to deliberate on the progress of implementation of the Maputo Declaration on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases (2003).

In spite of some progress being made in strengthening the health systems and tackling the pandemics of Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, the African countries still face constraints in realization of health objectives for a better life for the population of the Continent.

After intensive and lively discussions, the Ministers resolved, among other things, to increase mobilization of domestic resources in order to meet the targets set in the health sector and to demonstrate to international partners that the assistance given is being utilized well in realization of national health objectives.

The Special Session was organized by Mozambique, the current Chair of the African Union, and the Commission of the African Union with tremendous support from WHO, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and Global Fund to Fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GDFATM).

In addition to Hon. Dr. Francisco Songane, Minister of Health of Mozambique, the Meeting was attended by Ministers of Health from Africa; Dr. Lee Jong Wook, Director General of WHO; Dr. Samba, Regional Director of WHO-AFRO; Dr. Tore Godal, Executive Secretary of GAVI; Dr. Richard Feachem, Executive Director of GFATM; Ms Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF and the Permanent Representative of the African Union in Geneva.

Geneva, 18th May 2004