



ZAMBIA PARLIAMENTARIANS UHC COMMUNIQUÉ

Zambian Parliamentarians Affirming the Global Parliamentarians 'Ottawa Statement' and African Parliamentarians Communiqué (Kigali) to Make Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Population and Development a Political Priority
24th June 2019, Lusaka, Zambia

Whereas we acknowledge the efforts being put in place and implemented by the Government, We the Members of Parliament participating in the Zambia Parliamentarians Dialogue on Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Population and Development have taken time today to deliberate and shape initiatives that reinforce parliamentary advocacy with the goal of accelerating progress and making health for all a reality;

We are Aware

That the Global South is experiencing phenomenal population changes and the Republic of Zambia is no exception. Predictions indicate that Africa's share of the global population will grow from 16% in 2015 to 39% by 2100. Zambia's population is also expected to more than double by 2050 and about half of the population will be young people aged 15-34;

We Welcome

Agreements and documents that have come before this moment¹ and acknowledge that the renewed focus on primary health care, health financing and population and development that pays attention to the most affected in the last mile; is not new;

We Commend

The Parliamentary Champions across Africa who are committed to reinforcing provisions in existing policy frameworks for the advancement of Africa's health development agenda; and commit to support efforts geared to accelerating implementation of Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Population and Development with focus on increasing access to Essential UHC commodities including Immunizations and Reproductive Health Supplies - through parliamentarians' mandates;

We Support

The provision of universal sexual and reproductive health services that benefit women and adolescents, and safeguard the health of their children and societies at large and recognize that it is both inexpensive and cost effective - and it meets critical needs of a large portion of the population while helping governments make progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets related Universal Health Coverage² and 'Agenda 2063'³;

¹ Some of the Continental Policy Frameworks, Model Laws and Global Commitments include
African Charter on Human and People's Rights in Africa (1986)
International Conference on Population & Development (1994)
Maputo Protocol/ African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women (2003)
Addis Ababa Declaration on Financing for Development;
Addis Declaration on Immunization (2017)

Among others.

² Relevant UHC/SRHR SDG targets include,
SDG target 3.7: by 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

SDG target 3.8: by 2030 achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

SDG target 5.6: by 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

³ Agenda 2063 aspirations relevant to the right to health



We are Committed to the following: -

To leave no one behind. We reiterate that Universal Health Coverage and particularly Primary Health Care (PHC) provide the cornerstone of the health system and are a critical first step to achieving Health for All;

To ensure that every Zambian has a right to the highest attainable standard of health without financial hardship and commit to explicitly target populations most in need and call upon the Executive to ensure full implementation of the 2018 National Health Insurance Act that provides for sound financing for the national health system; and provides for universal access to quality insured health care services that meets women and adolescent girls' unique needs, including their sexual and reproductive health;

To review and strengthen health systems, and particularly address financing issues within our mandate; to guarantee and avail resource appropriations that are needed for the implementation of the national health plans and policies;

To urge the Executive to resolve the current gaps and challenges in health financing; seek for progressive increases in health investments and budgeting in line with the Abuja declaration commitment of 15% of the National Budget;

To Keep universal access to immunization at the forefront of our efforts to reduce child mortality, morbidity and disability, and in doing so help our countries achieve their long-term health, economic and development goals; and address the persistent barriers in our vaccine and healthcare delivery systems;

To accelerate continued advocacy for gender equality and the empowerment of men, women and adolescent girls and boys (with emphasis on male involvement) – so that they can make informed decisions about their own lives and get empowered to be agents of change and contributors to Africa's collective and transformative aspirations;

To promote transparency and accountability in the implementation of UHC programmes through the representative and oversight functions of national Parliaments and relevant parliamentary committees, and to ensure the adoption of public budgets in Parliament that are sensitive to UHC programmes;

To urgently call upon all concerned parties to uphold principles of effective development cooperation; and to increasingly optimize efforts to work with existing systems and structures at national, sub regional and continental levels for accelerated UHC implementation including the protection of women, adolescents, children and Key Populations in tune with various continental frameworks that include but are not limited to the Africa Health Strategy, Addis Ababa Declaration on Population & Development; Addis Declaration on Immunization, the Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and its implementation strategy that is outlined in the Maputo Plan of action; and the Maputo Protocol that operationalizes African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women.

Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Africa is determined to eradicate poverty in one generation and build shared prosperity through social and economic transformation of the continent.

Aspiration 3: An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law. Africa seeks to have a universal culture of good governance, democratic values, gender equality, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.

Aspiration 6: An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children. Africa shall be an inclusive continent where no child, woman or man will be left behind or excluded, on the basis of gender, political affiliation, religion, ethnic affiliation, locality, age or other factors.



In Conclusion, allow us to reaffirm our support as Parliamentarians the world over prepare to adopt the First Global Parliamentary Resolution on UHC at the 141st IPU Assembly in Serbia in October 2019; and as the Global Community prepares to mark 25 years since the Cairo promise in the November 2019 at the 'Nairobi Summit on ICPD25'.

We Thank You.