

Talking Points for Dr Abdourahmane Diallo, CEO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria:
Press Conference on the Announcement of HE President Uhuru Kenyatta as ALMA Chair

Nairobi, Kenya, 9 March 2020

Your Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya,
Your Excellency Mrs. Amira El Fadil, African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs,
Madam Joy Phumaphi, Executive Secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2020 marks the beginning of the decade to end malaria. According to the WHO World Malaria Report, in 2018, there were 213 million malaria cases and 380 thousand malaria deaths in Africa, representing 93% of the global malaria cases and 94% of the global deaths. Two-thirds of these malaria deaths were in children under five.

Since 2010, Africa has reduced malaria incidence by 22% and deaths by 43%, however the rate of progress has slowed over the last three years. Now more than ever before we have to take bold action to accelerate progress in the fight against this disease which disproportionately affects the African continent.

The “Zero Malaria Starts with Me” campaign will be critical. This campaign, endorsed by the African Union leaders and jointly coordinated by the African Union Commission and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, is a continent-wide effort to promote individual responsibility to fight malaria and drive political will, domestic resources, and community action. Malaria is not just a challenge for the health sector, it is a challenge for everyone. We encourage every country in Africa to join the 13 countries that have already launched their national Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaigns.

We need to secure additional resources in order to win the fight against malaria. There is already good news. The Global Fund replenishment was very successful, securing over US\$14 billion for the next three years to help us to accelerate impact in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria.

We also need to secure additional domestic public and private sector resources. I had the pleasure of attending the launch of the first End Malaria Fund in the Kingdom of Eswatini last year. National End Malaria Councils and End Malaria Funds mobilise multi-sectoral action, resources, advocacy, and accountability. These are critical tools ensuring malaria remains high on national development agendas and closing the \$2.5 billion annual resource gap under national malaria strategic plans. I therefore encourage African leaders to accelerate efforts to implement End Malaria Councils and End Malaria Funds.

I am delighted that to date, 40 countries have developed country-owned national malaria control and elimination scorecards, management tools, and action trackers. It is essential that we continue to use real time data to facilitate timely identification of performance gaps and stimulate corrective action. We should expand the use of these tools at all levels and across all sectors, so that everyone is aware of their malaria situation and be able to take action!

In June 2020, the RBM partnership to End Malaria, in collaboration with the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, and other partners will be supporting the first-ever global Malaria and NTD summit under the leadership of His Excellency President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). This provides an opportunity to track progress and enhance our commitments in the fight against malaria. We hope to have similar engagements moving forward on the sidelines of the Francophonie Summit later this year.

I greatly look forward to continuing to work with African leaders in the fight against malaria. On behalf of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, I would like to convey our deepest gratitude to His Majesty King Mswati III as outgoing Chair of ALMA and to warmly welcome His Excellency President Kenyatta as he takes on this important role.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, in this decade to End Malaria, Zero Malaria Starts with me and with all of us!