

STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE, FORMER
PRESIDENT OF UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND
MEMBER OF THE END MALARIA COUNCIL, DURING
THE SADC MINISTERIAL MEETING INCHARGE
ON 7TH NOVEMBA 2019, DAR ES SALAAM.

*Honourable Ummy Mwalimu, Minister for Health, Community
Development, Gender, Elderly and Children;*

*Honourble Dr. Stegomena Tax, Executive Secretary of the
Southern Africa Development Community (SADC);*

Honourable Ministers;

Dr. Abdou Diallo, RBM Partnership to End Malaria;

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman.

I sincerely thank Dr. Stegomena Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC and Honourable Ummy Mwalimu, Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children for the invitation. I am profoundly grateful to get this for sure opportunity to speak to the distinguished Ministers of Health of the SADC region.

Honourable Ministers;

I am here on behalf of the End Malaria Council of which I am a Member. I bring with me fraternal greetings and a message of goodwill and solidarity from the Council to you and through you to the Heads of State and Government of SADC Member States. The message is about intensifying the fight against malaria which is a major public health challenge in the SADC region and the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Before delivering the gist of the message, allow me, Madam Chairperson to say a few words about the End Malaria Council for purposes of introduction. The Council was established in 2016 by Bill Gates and Ray Chambers. These two eminent global personalities, businessmen and philanthropists have distinguished themselves to be frontline advocates and fighters for the eradication of malaria from the face of this planet. I am sure all of you know and are aware of the wonderful work being done by Bill Gates and his wife Melinda, through their Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in health and other endeavors of human development. In this regard, the BMGF has been doing a lot of work on malaria control in Africa and countries of the Southern African region have been among the beneficiaries.

Ray Chambers is the former Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Health in Agenda 2030 and for Malaria. Currently, he is the WHO Ambassador for Global Strategy. Prior to that together with Peter Chernin, he co-founded the American NGO called Malaria No More which has been making significant contribution in the fight against malaria in Africa and globally. I worked closely with Ray Chambers while conceiving the idea of establishing the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) which you all know. He has provided anchor support to ALMA from inception and, he continues to do so to this day. ALMA has been able to do many things so far through the support of Ray Chambers.

Together with the two Co-Chairs and I, the End Malaria Council has 11 Members. The others are Peter Chernin, Chairman and CEO of the Chernin Group; Aliko Dangote, President and Chief Executive, Dangote Group; Graça Machel, former First Lady of Mozambique and South Africa; Luis Alberto Moreno, President, Inter-American Development Bank; His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini; H.E. Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia; H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf former

President of Liberia; and H.E. Madame Li Xiaolin, President, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. As you can see, the End Malaria Council has brought together a group of public and private sector leaders who are committed to seeing malaria eradicated from the face of this planet at the earliest possible time.

The End Malaria Council is an advocacy platform. It is not a funding although some of its members through their Foundation and philanthropic work have been donating huge sums of money to financing malaria control and elimination programmes in a number of African countries including ours, in SADC region. The Council also has been using its good offices to help regions and countries to mobilize financial resources to fight malaria.

The End Malaria Council is a unique advocacy platform. At its meetings besides its bonafide members, all the major players in the fight against malaria are always invited and they participate at the highest. Among the institutions that participate are the WHO, the Global Fund Against Malaria, HIV and TB, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership to End Malaria, USAID, PMI, DFID, the World Bank and ADB. They are regular participants to the extent they have become part and parcel of the EMC. Through their

participation a number of the issues raised and discussed find the responsible institution or person to take of it. This way progress is drive forward the objective of seeing malaria eliminated.

In doing its advocacy work the End Malaria Council has been focusing on the three key areas of leadership, finance and technology. We in the Council believe if we have in place strong political leadership, adequate financial resources and appropriate technology nothing will stop humanity from ending malaria. Nothing will impede communities, districts, provinces and countries from eradicating malaria. Strong political leadership starts with the Ministers of Health. It is in her or his Ministry where ideas are generated and plans are conceived on how to end the scourge of malaria. It is from the Ministry of Health that messages what needs to be done are communicated to the relevant government Ministries up to the Head of State or Government. We in the End Malaria Council expect to hear Ministers of Health say, “the journey to eradicate malaria starts with me”.

We in the End Malaria Council are fully aware that without adequate financial resources it will not be possible to fight war against malaria and win. The cone malaria interventions of Artemisinin based Combination Therapies the Long Lasting

Insecticide Treated Bed-nets (LLIN) and Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) and Rapid Diagnostic Test will not be accessed if there aren't adequate financial resources. We are cognizant of the fact that the remarkable progress made between 2000 and 2015 which led to decline in death from malaria by 61 percent and in malaria cases by 37 percent which translated into 6.2 million lives being saved was brought about by good leadership and increased financing. Financial investment in malaria control increased from \$960 million in 2000 to \$2.5 billion by 2015.

On behalf of the End Malaria Council I would like to appeal to Ministers of Health and through you to the Ministers of Finance and the highest levels of governments in the SADC region to give financing malaria control the top priority it deserves in the national budgets. It makes a lot of social and economic sense. Malaria is the leading cause of deaths in Africa. Malaria consumes a large, if not the largest, chunk of health budgets of governments in the SADC regions and Sub-Saharan Africa. There is no doubt that the disease is a serious impediment to growth and development in our region. Can you imagine the thousands of useful man-hours lost and the pain and suffering endured by people who have contracted the disease. Ending malaria therefore, is in the best interest of our

people, governments and countries. We in the End Malaria Council will continue with advocacy with donors to keep financing malaria control high on the ODA for health.

Honourable Ministers;

Good leadership and increased finance alone with appropriate technology would not have engendered the remarkable progress in the one and half decade between 2000 and 2015. It was advances in technology which produced ACT and the insecticides used in the bed nets and indoor residual spraying which delivered the remarkable results. ACT proved to be a more effect drug to malaria infection and the insecticide used for the LLIN and IRS proved effective in vector control. We in the Council know as much as you have noticed that the efficacy of the insecticide for LLIN and IRS is being challenged. I would like to assure you that these developments have been discussed by the Council and the way forward has been agreed. I know there is scientific work going on to develop new lines of insecticides for LLIN and IRS. However, the message from the EMC is that we must continue to use the existing technologies for they are not completely useless. Moreover, we cannot blame everything on the efficacy of the insecticide because there is evidence that a number

of countries could not meet the targeted coverage for bed-nets and IRS. Also, that the replenishment of the bed-nets came late and the lost time accounts for the resurgence.

Honourable Ministers;

The Southern African Development Community Region has been important contributor to progress made and continues to be made in Africa and the world. Between 2000 and 2017 the region recorded a 24% reduction in malaria cases and 51% decrease in malaria deaths. According to the 2018 WHO Malaria Report of the six African countries which have reached malaria pre-elimination four are the SADC region. These four countries are Botswana, the Comoros, South Africa and Eswatini. The other two countries are Algeria and Cape Verde. As we heard this year WHO has declared Algeria malaria free. Algeria joins Mauritius (1973) and Morocco (2010), two other countries in Africa to be certified malaria free. When one looks at the efforts and the successful track record of the Elimination 8 counties on implementing cross border initiatives for malaria control and elimination, there is every possibility for the SADC region to be malaria free well ahead of the 2030 target.

We in the End Malaria Council are calling upon concerned countries, donors and all other stakeholders in the international

community to play their part accordingly. Saving lives should be the calling for every human being who can do it. Even if it means saving one life.

Honourable Ministers;

Before I conclude let me also say that in advancing the malaria elimination agenda on the African continent the EMC has been working closely with ALMA and the RBM Partnership to end Malaria. The Director of RBM Dr. Abdou Diallo, is here with us today, and if it pleases you Honourable Ministers to allow him to say a few words. For your information, we have also keen on working with Her Excellency Amira El *Fadil*, the Commissioner for Social Affairs for the African Union Commission to develop working relations with the African Union. With regard to the Regional Economic Communities, I have already met with ECOWAS Ministers of Health in our first outreach programme. This one here today is the second the End Malaria Council is undertaking with RECs in Africa. We look forward to holding similar meetings with Health Ministers of other RECs in due course.

Honourable Ministers;

In conclusion let me say that however formidable the task may seem, eliminating malaria from the whole SADC region, the rest of the African continent and the world is not an impossibility. There are many countries on this planet which were malaria endemic but have been able to eradicate the disease. Since 2007 ten countries have done so and two of them are in Africa. If they have been able to do so SADC countries and the rest of Africa can do the same as well. What our countries should do is to emulate their good example and adapt them to our own unique situations.

Honourable Ministers;

Once again, allow me to thank Dr. Stegomena Tax, Executive Secretary of Southern Africa Development Community and Honourable Ummy Mwalimu, Minister in charge of Health. I wish you the very best in all your endeavors and a successful meeting ahead.

Thank you for kind attention!