



**Joint ministerial meeting for Ministers of Health and Ministers  
responsible for HIV and AIDS  
Communiqué  
7-11 November 2016  
Ezulwini**

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A Joint Ministerial meeting for Ministers of Health and Ministers Responsible for HIV and AIDS was held from 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov 2016 at Royal Swazi, in Ezulwini, Kingdom of Swaziland. The meeting was convened by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and hosted by the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The meeting followed a Public Health approach focussing on the prevention and control and management of diseases; The meeting was attended by some Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Health and HIV and AIDS respectively. The Meeting Approved Policy Strategies, Frameworks and strategic interventions addressing the implementation Plan for the SADC Protocol on Health and the implementation of the SADC Declaration on HIV and AIDS.

The key milestones achieved in the region are as follows:

- The region experienced a decline in new HIV infections from 880,000 in 2010 to 763000 in 2015, a decline of 13.3%.
- High coverage of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), only one MS has a coverage of less than 60%
- 40% reduction in the number of children under-5 who are stunted ;
- 30% reduction in low birth weight when compared with the baseline of 2006 – 2010
- the positivity rate for malaria among febrile cases has been reported to be 44%, constituting a significant regional disease burden.

Ministers noted that, despite the various milestones achieved by the region towards improving health outcomes, the increasing mortality associated with a high burden of both communicable diseases such as HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; increasing incidences of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and emergence and re – emergence of diseases such Leprosy, Anthrax, Ebola, Yellow Fever, Cholera and other Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) such as Onchocerciasis, Schistosomiasis and Lymphatic Filariasis. Maternal mortality ratio remains high

in the region regardless of favourable maternal and child health indicators such as high PMTCT coverage, high ANC attendance and high number of deliveries by skilled labour.

The meeting was opened by His Excellence The Prime Minister of The Kingdom of Swaziland Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini. The Prime Minister underscored the need to address the gaps that talks to harmonising efforts that intends to improve the health sector in the Region. The Prime Ministers is also applauded for introducing e-SADC, a platform which ensured that all meeting documents were accessed electronically and guaranteed an efficient and smooth proceedings of the thereof. It is notable that this was the first ever paperless joint meeting of the SADC Ministers of Health and those responsible for HIV and AIDS. This is a practical demonstration of the regional commitment towards the Paris Declaration on Climate Change as it took place on the same week of the First UN Conference on climate under the Paris Agreement. The SADC region remains committed to the Climate change agenda.

The Meeting was chaired by Honourable Sibongile Simelane Minister of Health in the Kingdom of Swaziland,

Proceedings were conducted in formal plenary sessions and revolved around four themes as follows: (i) Disease Prevention and Control of Diseases, (ii) Food and Nutrition, (iii) Pooled Procurement and Regional Manufacturing of Essential Medicines and Health Commodities (iv)

**The Joint Ministers Meeting resolved to:**

- accelerate the effective implementation of strategies and interventions for public health and high impact HIV prevention interventions;
- to strengthen efforts for achieving sustainable health financing.
- track and report the implementation of the Declaration by WHO for Zika outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;
- to fully adopt and implement IHR within the context of Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) for effective response to emerging and re-emerging conditions such as Zika and Yellow fever

**The following are the outcomes of the Joint Ministers' Meeting:**

1. The meeting approved the following reports/ documents:
  - Report on the Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Health, including Regional Minimum Standards, Frameworks and Guidelines;
  - 2016 SADC HIV and AIDS Epidemic Report;
  - SADC 2016 HIV SADC HIV, SRH, TB and Malaria Programmes Integration Business Plan 2016-2020
  - Strategy for Regional Manufacturing of Essential Medicines and Health Commodities in SADC (2016-2020)
2. The meeting further recommended the following :
  - Development of a resource mobilisation roadmap to support the operationalization of the SADC Pharmaceutical Business Plan
  - Development or update of national nutrition plans with ambitious targets in line with the SDGs and the World Health Assembly targets
  - Establishment and initiate of the SADC Pharmaceutical Procurement Services (SPPS) within a SADC Member State

- Strengthen collaboration between the SADC Military Health Service and the SADC Secretariat for a joint regional response to emergencies in line with Article 25 of the SADC Protocol on Health.

Member states thanked The Kingdom of Swaziland for hosting a successful, meeting in an efficient manner, highlighting the use of e-SADC platform as a welcome trend.

**Ezulwini Swaziland, 12 November 2016**

**SADC Ministers of Health and Ministers Responsible for HIV and AIDS**