



**Press Release
For Immediate Release
6 June 2009**

We, the Cabinet Committee of Ministers on HIV and AIDS, having met at Protea Hotel Safari Lodge Chisamba from 5th to 6th June, 2009 to consider the status of the HIV and AIDS situation in Zambia as well as updating the national response, hereby declare our commitment to the pandemic as follows:

- (1) Need to scaling up of prevention measures:** We appreciate the policy for universal access to ART and are committed to providing free ARVs to those in need. We are mindful of the global economic melt down which has affected contributions coming from Cooperating Partners. Therefore, the Cabinet Committee of Ministers on HIV and AIDS commit themselves to scaling up on prevention measures which are less costly and which would contribute greatly to the response, such as scaling up male circumcision and reducing multiple and concurrent sexual partnerships and special attention to high risk population groups.

- (2) Further interrogation of research findings:** Whilst considerable effort has been made in research on the response, there is need for further interrogation of research on the relationship between poverty and HIV and AIDS.

- (3) Financing of the Response:** We recognize and appreciate the donor funding to HIV and AIDS. However, this is in the long term unsustainable. Notwithstanding that we call upon our cooperating partners to fulfill all their global commitments. The Ministers hereby agrees to work on ways to broaden the funding base, including greater GRZ funding, as well as looking at creative ways to develop a sustainable funding mechanism such as the National HIV and AIDS Fund proposed in the National HIV/AIDS/SI/TB Council Act No. 10 of 2002.
- (4) Operationalise the Decentralisation Policy:** The Ministers agreed on the need to rapidly implement the Decentralisation Policy as a means to rapidly scale up the multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS, in order to reach out to all communities in urban and rural areas.
- (5) Social mobilization:** We are committed to scaling up campaigns targeting youths who are our window of hope in ensuring an HIV free generation.

Ministers felt compelled to fully engage themselves and their Ministries to address the current needs in the national response to HIV and AIDS.

We thank the cooperating partners for their continued support to the National response to HIV and AIDS despite the on going global economic crisis.
