

***WHO Remarks at Joint Annual Health Sector Review Policy Meeting – Dodoma,  
Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019***

*Honorable Minister **Umy Mwalimu**, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, Children*

*Honorable Minister **Jafo Suleiman**, Presidents Office – Regional Administration and Local Government,*

*Honorable Permanent Secretary **Dr. Zainab Chaula**, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, Children*

*Honorable Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Presidents Office - Regional Administration and Local Government, **Dr. Dorothy Gwajima**,*

***Prof. Kambi Mohamed** Chief Medical Officer,*

*Government officials of the United Republic of Tanzania*

*Representatives of CSOs, NGOs and the private sector*

*Heads of Cooperation, Country Representatives, Development Partners,*

*Invited guests,*

**Good morning/ Habari za asubuhi**

**Honorable Ministers;** First and foremost, let me thank God who has provided us yet with another opportunity to discuss matters that are relevant towards improvement of health development. I would also wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender Elderly and Children and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Governments for their continued collaboration and guidance to the World Health Organization to effectively execute its function in the country.

**Honorable Ministers;** We take note that the Development Partners remarks has covered all those issues we are supposed to share in this meeting. However, WHO as the UN specialized Agency for Health in which Tanzania is a Member State, I would like to highlight some message.

The main message I want to bring to you is a reminder to institute processes that will ensure we achieve the Sustainable Development Goal three, through Universal Health Coverage and other health related SDG goals. The aim should be for the country to contribute towards the three billions outlined in the 13<sup>th</sup> WHO General Programme Of work i.e. increasing access to health services, managing outbreaks and emergencies and improvements in the social determinants for health.

Our records demonstrates that these processes have already begun through the Joint Health Sector Technical Review that has just ended in October 2019, and Development of the Government, WHO Biennial Plan and Budget for 2020-21, which is in its final stages.

Implementation of the three priorities puts emphasis on the comprehensive approach towards health services delivery. Health programmes should be programmes that are linked and are working to achieve common objectives on improvement of health status of the population

**Honorable Ministers;** within this context we see the need and the increasing role of domestic resources to finance health services. We take note of the increasing strength emphasis we see on government funding in financing comprehensive health care delivery rather than earmarking funding that often are in favor of selective health programmes. This does not mean we are underestimating the effectiveness of selective programmes. However, they have limited impact in achieving broad health outcomes.

For domestic financing to provide valuable contribution to the health sector, there will be a need to cooperate with Ministry of Finance to improve budget formulation, disbursement, execution, monitoring and evaluation (Public Financial Management). Moreover, the Ministries of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Together with Presidents Office Regional Administration and Local Government may need to improve both allocative ensuring (effectiveness of health interventions) and technical efficiencies (efficiency in inputs combinations i.e. staff, medicines, equipment).

WHO and DPs are ready to continue supporting towards this direction through strengthening of the health budget within the broader government budget as well

as strengthening strategic purchasing as described earlier on increasing efficiencies.

**Honorable Ministers:** We commend the Government on bold actions towards strengthening of health services delivery. This is demonstrated by the increased approved budget in the health sector, we hope this will go simultaneously with fund disbursement and effective utilization. Expansion of health facilities, exploration of health financing options that will increase public expenditure on health and extensive dialogue towards resolving HRH challenges are of utmost important.

We acknowledge efforts the Government is making in the area of increased awareness of the population on health. Almost all mass media be it electronic, print and traditional are filled with various health messages and it is our hope, an evaluation will also take place to make sure these messages are reaching the intended target population to bring about behavioral change.

**Honorable Ministers;** I did not intend to spend more time to speak. Since most of the words have been adequately covered by the Chair of DPs. This was meant to remind you some of our mutual obligation between Government and WHO.

**I thank you for listening/ Asanteni**