

OPENING REMARKS BY CMO – TECHNICAL REVIEW MEETING (TRM) JAHSR 2010

Dear colleagues, Development Partners in the health sector, Civil Society Organization, NGO's representatives, and other stakeholders and invited guests; I greet you all - ladies and gentlemen.

This is our 11th JAHSR under SWAp arrangement. Last year we had a more expanded Technical Review Meeting. We agreed that, this year we will have a smaller and more condensed, more focused Annual Health sector Review. The Review will allow us to analyze the key issues that need to be addressed in the coming year, and propose new milestones for FY 2010/11. 10 milestones were agreed in the last years JAHSR, and further confirmed in the subsequent TC-SWAp on 6th November, 2009. On these milestones we will receive summary updates on status of implementation, and the TWG – chairs have provided summaries to that effect as well.

Last year we established 12 Technical Working Groups and these groups will inform our TRM on progress of implementation, challenges encountered, and ways to move forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We are all aware that this review is done in the context of implementing HSSP III 2009 – 2015: To deliver the MDGs related to the sector, to strengthen our health systems, and to guide and support the specific objectives set in our strategic plan.

In this task we are guided by the Primary Health Services Delivery Program, the MMAM 2007 – 2017 which is presently being implemented.

It is the responsibility of the Ministry's technical arm to carry out coordination, harmonization, alignment, and linkages in policies, strategies, programs, and projects towards the national vision 2025 and the poverty reduction strategies.

A new MKUKUTA is about to be launched and will guide Tanzania's poverty reduction performance in the coming five/ten years. The close association between health status and poverty is documented globally as well as in Tanzania. I am happy to inform you that the HSSP III is fully harmonized with MKUKUTA II. We expect synergy from this harmonization as improved health status due to effective health sector performance will help reducing poverty and - vice versa – reduced poverty triggered from other sectors will help reducing demands in the health sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

This 11th JAHSR – Technical Review meeting, is an opportunity for all of us to jointly contribute to the health sector performance, including marketing the sector for support from all partners within and outside the country.

It is my expectation that we will receive reports on the strategic areas outlined in HSSP III, analyze these reports and propose ways to move the health sector forward.

Despite of the fact that the DHS 2010 has not yet come out formally, I am aware that there is clear indication that the Health Sector continues to perform well on the MDGs, especially the MDG 4 & 6. When the Health Performance report is presented, you will notice a positive change towards our set targets and ultimate goal.

However, you are all aware that the health sector is not exempt from the global financial crisis in terms of decreased ODA and even actual failure to disburse pledged funds.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

There is still room for improvement, in terms of efficient and effective ways to use the available resources, but more so if we agree to holistically address the systemic issues, which we all know is a challenging task: The Human Resources for Health is still in crisis; the population is growing and increasing demands for Health Services, and unit costs of services are increasing.

We are engaged to address those problems, and not to gloss over them. We now have high hanging fruits, as the low hanging ones have all been harvested. This is illustrated by non responsiveness of Maternal Mortality (MDG 5) despite very elaborate interventions. This is an issue which cuts across sectors.

The Ministry has started to address the Health Systems Strengthening by carrying out a thorough analysis, and we are now in the process of providing high powered human resource and technical assistance. We are looking for the best ways to coordinate programs which provide a window for funding of Human Resources for Health and Health Systems Strengthening on key areas. This includes The Global Fund, GAVI, and other International and bi-lateral contributors.

The Technical Review Meeting Terms of References are clear as to what we want to achieve in this meeting. The time table is also presented. These documents were prepared by the Joint Annual Health Sector Review Task Force which was assigned this task and is composed of DPs, NGO representatives, CSO representatives and the Health Sector Resource Secretariat. I say thank you for this excellent preparatory work, which has enabled us to meet here today to prepare for the Joint Annual Health Sector Review 2010 Main Meeting ahead of us.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As Chair, I declare This Technical Review Meeting 2010 open. Let us go into the business of the day.

Thank you, Karibuni sana!

Dr. Deo M. Mtasiwa
CMO – 7th September, 2010