



CSOs Statement
Joint Annual Health Sector Review Meeting 2010
September 29 - 30, 2010 Blue pearl Hotel

Honorable Minister, Officials from MoHSW, MoF, PMO-RALG, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, all participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning

Honorable Minister, we are once again pleased with the diversity of participants in this Annual Review and more pleased with the opportunity provided to CSOs to be among the opening speakers, hoping that the collaboration we have been enjoying in the past will continue for the benefit of strengthening the health system in Tanzania.

Honorable Minister, this statement was prepared by Policy Forum, which is a focused member-led network which is striving to increase informed civil society participation in decisions and actions that determine how policies affect ordinary Tanzanians. This network currently comprises of 100 Non Governmental Organizations.

Honorable Minister, despite the many challenges facing the health sector, we would like to commend the MoHSW for the improvements it has made since last year. These include, but are not limited to; TB treatment success rate rose from 84.7 in 2006 to 87.7 in 2007 making it one of the highest in the world, gains in child survival, major reductions in the incidence of malaria deaths, and continued implementation of the Primary Health Services Development Program.

Honorable Minister, the Health Sector Performance Profile Report (2009) indicates progress in the implementation of MMAM through increased student enrolment in health training institutions, posting of trained staff to Councils and building of more dispensaries and health centers. While the aim of this is to increase access to quality services, there is evidence that large number of the recruited and posted health workers in the underserved regions are not reporting or they report and leave after a while. Salary payments for the newly posted staff are still taking between 6 to 9 months¹. There is still a major challenge of attracting and retaining these professionals. All these problems are compounded by the problem of efficiency and effective planning for available HRH at the council level. In this

¹ Health Sector Performance Profile Report 2009 Update

respect, CSOs recommend urgent implementation of the Health Center Performance Audit by the CAG.

Honorable Minister, delivery of health care services cannot be done without having in place enough trained and qualified health workers. We are now in the third year of implementation of the Human Resource Strategic Plan. We, however, continue to face challenges such as inadequate budget allocation to address the crisis, unreliable database for human resource for health at national and district levels, poor attraction and retention strategies for underserved areas, inadequate follow up of newly posted employees, and inefficient use of the few available employees².

As per the current Human Resource for Health Strategic Plan, at least 20% of the annual budget for the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare should go to the Department of Human Resource Development if we want to address the crisis. It is unfortunate that this proposed amount has never been reached since the inception of the plan in 2008. For example, only about 4% of the 2010/11 budget for MoHSW is going to this department.

Honorable Minister, CSOs have been asking for a citizen friendly budget for the health sector. Both citizens and MPs, even those well-versed with Budget, are finding it very difficult, to follow how resources in the health sector are allocated and spent. Looking for the health sector budget from four different volumes of books and from different votes in each book is cumbersome and time wasting for both planners and users. Policy Forum has for this year produced a citizens' budget for the year 2010/11 as a means of enabling more citizens to understand the government budget. We urge you and the Ministry of Finance to work on this issue for the coming budget to improve citizen knowledge and ability on budget issues. Indeed, that is what the government has promised for 2011/12 during the current annual GBS review³.

Honorable Minister, to achieve accountability we have to be transparent with public budgets and plans. Budget information is increasingly becoming difficult to access both at central and health facility level. This has been the most lamentable issue from CSOs in this review every year. We therefore continue to demand that financial allocations and information on the use of public money at any level is timely and publicly available.

Thank you

² Refer to the Health Center Performance Audit by the Controller and Auditor General

³ Assessment criteria for the Underlying Process of Accountable Governance under the Annual GBS Review