

## **Declaration by African Youth to End Malaria in Africa by 2030**

### *"Youth Leadership And Action For A Malaria-Free Africa"*

**WE**, the young leaders and representatives of youth from across Africa, unified under the banner of youth advocacy for malaria elimination, embodying the hopes, dreams, and voices of our generation, convening at the 5th Anniversary of the Zero Malaria Starts With Me movement, from 7th to 8th July 2023, recognise the significant strides and challenges faced in achieving a malaria-free Africa;

**DRAWING** from the Pan-African initiative "Zero Malaria Starts With Me" and its three-pillar approach of generating political commitment, mobilising private sector engagement and financing, and increasing community engagement and ownership;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of adding a fourth pillar to the ZMSWM Initiative that is youth-oriented and takes into account the formation of national youth malaria councils and other youth-led policy dialogues and advocacy activities towards the end of malaria by 2030;

**NOTING WITH CONCERN** that malaria, and other pressing health challenges in Africa, cause untold suffering to billions worldwide and acknowledging that the fight against these diseases is crucial to unlocking countries' potential;

**FURTHER NOTING WITH CONCERN** that the African Union's 2020 target of reducing malaria incidence and mortality by 40%, was not met;

**ENCOURAGED** by the progress over the last two decades, which proves that ending malaria is possible;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of equitable access to affordable and quality malaria prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, and support services as a fundamental human right;

**RECOGNISING** that harnessing the youth demographic dividend is central and catalytic in eliminating malaria in Africa by 2030 in line with the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa by 2030 and the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth;

**RECALLING** the commitment made during the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs to build a strong network of youth advocating for malaria elimination, we acknowledge the power of young people in creating transformative social change;

**RECALLING** the African Union Malaria Conversation Guide for Youth in Africa launched on 2022 International Youth Day (12 August) to empower the young generation for meaningful inclusion in malaria policy dialogues and advocacy;

### **DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY:**

1. **APPLAUD** the commitment of the African Union Commission, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, and individual Member States and partners in the fight against malaria;
2. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the importance of the youth in this fight as both leaders and implementers of strategies and policies aimed at eradicating malaria;
3. **COMMEND** the commitment and engagement of young people across countries in building a strong network of malaria youth corps for malaria advocacy and action;
4. **COMMIT** to further strengthening Youth Leadership and Engagement in Policy Dialogue for Malaria Elimination in Africa;
5. **PLEDGE** to promote the use of the ALMA Scorecard as an accountability and action tool in our individual countries;

6. **APPEAL** to Governments, private sectors, and multi-sector leaders to increase investment in malaria programmes to create resilient health systems, prepare better for pandemics, and build healthier populations to create a foundation for human capital development to leapfrog inclusive economic growth and socio-economic transformation;
7. **CALL UPON** governments to incorporate the malaria youth corps into national healthcare delivery systems;
8. **ADVOCATE** for effective multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination between governments, communities, and development partners in the fight against malaria;
9. **EMPHASIZE** the need for equity in malaria care as a foundation for more robust health systems; taking to consideration vulnerable groups such as people living with disability and emerging issues such as climate change;
10. **PRESS** for accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency in the implementation of malaria-related strategies;
11. **URGE** for increased research and development to foster innovative solutions for malaria control and prevention;
12. **ENCOURAGE** the elimination of socio-cultural and economic barriers, promoting and protecting human rights and gender equality in accessing malaria services;
13. **STRESS** the importance of cross-border cooperation in the management and control of malaria, as diseases know no boundaries;
14. **DEDICATE** ourselves to harness the power of youth and the community in advocating, capacity development, and actively participating meaningfully in malaria interventions;
15. **REAFFIRM** our readiness to collaborate with all stakeholders, local and international, to end malaria and other pressing health challenges in Africa, making our health systems more resilient and our world safer, particularly for the most vulnerable groups;
16. **COMMIT** to utilise and contextualise the AU Malaria Conversation Guide for Youth in Africa to organise national policy dialogues that strengthen malaria response; and strengthen youth-led advocacy initiatives.
17. **REQUEST** the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) Youth Advisory Council working with the African Union Commission, the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, Speak Up Africa and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to support AU Member States to accelerate youth leadership and action for a malaria-free Africa
18. **EXPRESS** our gratitude to the Government and the People of the Republic of Senegal for hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Zero Malaria Starts With Me Campaign from 7-8 July 2023 in Dakar, Senegal.

Done at Dakar, Senegal, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023.