

Cooperating Partners Statement on the Launch of IHP Thursday 1st November 2007

Speech made by WHO on behalf of Cooperating Partners

1. Hon Minister Health - Brig Gen Dr Brian Chituwo
2. Ambassadors, Heads of Mission
3. Directors and staff of the Ministry of Health
4. Fellow Cooperating Partners
5. Members of the Media
6. All protocols observed

We would like to begin by congratulating the Ministry of Health for its leadership and commitment in taking the first steps in developing the Road-Map for the implementation of the International Health Partnership (IHP). We believe that Zambia's selection as one of the seven countries World Wide to be a first wave country for this initiative, recognises the enormous achievements made in this country in health systems development and working in partnership.

We see the IHP as an opportunity to renew our commitment to aid effectiveness in Zambia. We believe that the IHP builds upon strong foundations already in place in Zambia, built up over many years. This includes the Health MOU signed last year and more recently through the Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia (JASZ). The IHP puts renewed emphasis on taking the agenda forward – toward a greater focus on results. As is stated in the road-map, the IHP provides opportunities to 'accelerate action to scaled-up coverage and use of health services, and deliver improved outcomes against health related MDGs.'

This is something we all support.

We agree with the Ministry of Health that there is still much to be done. More resources are flowing into the Health Sector than ever before and we need to work with you to ensure these resources translate into health outcomes.

Yet improvements in health are not uniform across the sector. Improvements in malaria outcomes and those on ARV treatment has seen substantial gains which we all agree are a good and positive results. However, at the same time as these gains, maternal mortality has been increasing and ill health amongst children is still unacceptability high. The IHP therefore creates opportunities for the Ministry of Health to strengthen leadership in development of a comprehensive health system which will address the priority needs of all Zambian. We commit to support you in this.

The key to the achievement of these comprehensive outcomes is a stronger results oriented health action plans at all levels, which are then translated into improved service delivery at all levels. We are here to say that we want to support you in enhancing the comprehensiveness and quality of these action plans. And we commit to work with you around ONE plan.

We are privileged in Zambia to have some recent analytical work which points to some clear steps that can be taken to improve health outcomes. This includes the Public Expenditure Review, Public Expenditure Tracking Survey and Health Facilities Census. In addition the Government Led Joint Annual Review also points the sector toward issues that should be addressed.

Achieving results requires commitments and participation from everyone – Government, civil society, cooperating partners, the mission sector – including the Church Health Association of Zambia, private sector and academic institutions. We believe the IHP provides opportunities to further strengthen

engagement and involvement of all these partners. We believe there are great opportunities for enhancing the work and outcomes of the Health Sector through greater involvement of all these partners in the sector, from policy and planning through to supporting enhanced service delivery.

As cooperating partners, most of us have signed Zambia's Health MOU which provides an excellent framework for action for both Government and Cooperating Partners. A few have yet to sign, or have recently joined the sector, and we will work with you to ensure all partners active in the sector join us in the commitments of this MOU.

In terms of developing the specific details around Zambia's roadmap, we look forward to working with you on determining baselines and setting targets. This will include understanding challenges and constraints, as well as opportunities, toward achieving better health outcomes in Zambia. We will work with you on this.

In conclusion, we believe that we are privileged in Zambia to have instruments in place that will facilitate the implementation of the IHP; the road map builds upon the Paris Principles, our Health MOU and the JASZ – and we will work with you on its implementation to enable better health outcomes for all Zambians.

We thank you.