



## STATEMENT

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## "We Must Redouble Our Efforts"

Message by Professor Awa Marie Coll-Seck  
Executive Director  
The RBM Partnership

On the occasion of the

### **Launch of the WHO World Malaria Report 2010**

Read by Dr Thomas Teuscher  
Deputy Executive Director (a.i.)  
The RBM Partnership

Excellencies,  
Director General of the World Health Organization,  
United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy for Malaria  
Representatives of media organizations,  
Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings from Sofia, Bulgaria where I am representing the malaria community and partnerships on the Global Fund Board.

It is my great pleasure to join you today at such a promising moment in the global malaria response.

On behalf of the Roll Back Malaria Partners, I welcome and applaud the publication of this year's *World Malaria Report* by the World Health Organization. This is the world's single most authoritative report on global coverage rates for malaria control and the worldwide burden of malaria.

The World Malaria Report compiles country data and reviews progress in all malaria-endemic countries. It was prepared by Dr Robert Newman, Director of the Global Malaria Programme, and his team, working under the overall leadership of the WHO Director General, Dr Margaret Chan. I congratulate WHO for this outstanding contribution.

As the deadline for universal coverage, 2010 is a key milestone for the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. I am truly encouraged by the latest data presented in this year's report. It shows that the recent intensification of malaria control activities has resulted in a reduction of more than 50% in the malaria burden in many African countries. What's more, Morocco and Turkmenistan were certified free of malaria this year by the WHO Director General.

These results confirm the conclusions reached in the Roll Back Malaria Partnership's *Progress and Impact Series*. The P&I Series reveal that increased financing for malaria control improves coverage, which in turn systematically reduces the burden of disease.

The RBM Partnership is the coordinating body in the global fight against malaria; it mobilizes financial resources and benefits from the varied expertise of hundreds of partners. In 2008, the RBM Partnership published the Global Malaria Action Plan, or GMAP, which is the global consensus strategy that guides and unifies the malaria community in tackling this disease. The data published in this report is key to tracking progress towards the goals set out in the GMAP.

While this year's World Malaria Report bears a positive message, hinting at successes to come if indeed the momentum is sustained, the readers of this report are also provided with a description of future challenges.

The focus must now be on maintaining coverage, including the timely replacement of worn-out bednets, and ensuring high levels of utilization even in the absence of disease.

We must urgently fill the coverage gaps in diagnostics and lifesaving antimalarial medicines. We welcome special initiatives such as the Affordable Medicines Facility for malaria (AMFm) and the community-based management of all fevers.

Drug and insecticide resistance remain a very real threat to progress. We will need continued vigilance, strengthened surveillance systems for drug and insecticide resistance, tougher negotiations and initiatives to remove monotherapies, as well as increased investment into new tools.

We must still mobilize more resources to embark onto the next goal: reduce the number of malaria deaths from almost 1 million to near zero by 2015 through continued universal coverage with key interventions.

Over the past 10 years, scaling up malaria prevention has saved the lives of nearly three quarters of a million children in 34 endemic countries. 85% of these lives were saved in the last five years alone. Now is not the time to let the momentum wane. We must redouble our efforts, and save many more lives.

Thank you.