

**DECLARATION BY THE MINISTERS OF HEALTH OF THE
REPUBLICS OF THE GAMBIA, GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU,
LIBERIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, SENEGAL AND SIERRA LEONE**

THE BANJUL DECLARATION

We, the Ministers of Health of the Republics of the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

Recall our traditional ties of brotherhood and good neighbourliness;

Aware that peace and security are necessary conditions for the preservation and promotion of health;

Reaffirm our commitment and common will to address the challenges in the health sector, since disease knows no borders;

Reaffirm our commitment to advocate for increase resources in health and to address the challenges impeding their utilisation;

Recognising that the lives of millions of women and children are at risk from the scourge of malaria in our countries;

Aware that there are cost-effective, evidence based interventions that can prevent mortality and morbidity from malaria and thus save millions of lives each year;

Recognising that the responsibility of saving lives from the scourge of malaria lies not only with our countries but also with the International Community and Development Partners working together as committed partners;

Recognising the value added of knowledge sharing about best practises on malaria control;

Urge Member States to:

- Take the lead in implementing cost-effective measures for the prevention of malaria;
- Intensify efforts towards more effective and well co-ordinated implementation of national programmes aimed at reducing the burden of malaria;
- Support the sharing of knowledge between the countries to achieve national scale of coverage and utilisation of malaria control interventions;
- Take the necessary steps to promote access to affordable and effective anti-malaria drugs;
- Put in place necessary systems for the collection and use of high-quality data to inform policy and programmes;
- Invest in strengthening health systems from community to referral levels, to ensure sustained improvements in malaria control in our countries;
- Incorporate specific strategies to address sub-regional intervention;
- Mobilise resources to finance our plan of action, in traditional and innovative ways and identify need for external support where necessary;
- To establish institutional framework to support the implementation of the plan.

Call upon the International Community to leverage and commit resources required to the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, to enable member States access the additional resources required to effectively combat malaria in our countries.

Done this day, 22nd June, 2005, in Banjul, The Gambia.

1. Secretary of State for Health and Social Welfare, Republic of The Gambia

Name:

Signature.....

2. Minister of Health, Republic of Guinea

Name:

Signature.....

3. Minister of Health, Republic of Guinea Bissau

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Signature.....

4. Minister of Health, Republic of Liberia

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5. Minister of Health, Republic of Mali

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6. Minister of Health, Islamic Republic of Mauritania

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7. Minister of Health, Republic of Senegal

Name:

Signature.....

8. Minister of Health, Republic of Sierra Leone

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