MEDIA STATEMENT;
SADC ELIMINATION OF MALARIA (E8) MEETING

On 4th October, 2011, SADC Member States from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe referred to as the E8 Countries met in Maun Botswana to deliberate on the Elimination of Malaria. The thrust of the meeting was to agree on ways and means of promoting key interventions that the impact on the elimination of Malaria inculcating key interventions which would improve quality of life of the peoples of the region. SADC has adopted the use of DDT day as key IRS in line with the Stockholm Convention to be used in Malaria prevention. Malaria Elimination in the 8 Countries was also adopted within the frameworks of the SADC Strategy for Malaria and SADC Malaria Elimination. Following this decision, specific well known global health promotion efforts have been adopted by the E8 Ministers such as the Establishment of the E8 Secretariat, the E8 Technical Committee and Formation of the National Malaria Elimination Committee at country level. These efforts are being carried out in 8 countries.

The strengthening of the cross border malaria initiative and the sustainability of the Malaria Programme through mobilization of the domestic fund were also emphasized as actions to achieve the Malaria Elimination in the region.

The E8 reinforces the SADC message that Malaria can be eliminated in the SADC Region and could contribute greatly to prevention of premature deaths that can be prevented by simply adapting to strategic interventions. The 8 SADC Member States continue to stress the importance of Elimination of Malaria. It is imperative that correct information and education is made available to all SADC Member States to achieve the target of Eliminating Malaria by 2015 in the selected countries. It is therefore important that SADC Member States, in collaboration with our civil society and community partners, continue to raise awareness within our communities about the prevention of Malaria. Every SADC citizen has the responsibility to assist other citizen to better understand their health and personal risk for Malaria.

However, in as much as the provision of health information and raising awareness of the common risk factors of Malaria might not really achieve a healthy population, it is incumbent upon every SADC Member State to make conscious decisions to change the current Strategies for Managing Malaria..
This means that the use of DDT as an IRS should be made a habit in all SADC Member States. Only then can our citizens look forward to retaining their health as they grow older. It is therefore important that we strongly encourage all citizens of the SADC Region to practice behaviours that prevent Malaria such as the use of Bed Nets. SADC Member States are strongly urged to provide information and education programmes on Malaria Control and Prevention. Governments and Social Partners are also expected to continue conducting research activities in order to understand the levels, patterns and trends of Malaria at country level in order to be able to better control the disease. At regional level, the Secretariat will continue to coordinate efforts to ensure that measures aimed at Eliminating Malaria are consistent across the region. The Secretariat will also monitor progress made by 8 Member States in their efforts to control Malaria at national level and share such successes and challenges with other Member States so that they learn from each other in order to improve their work.