



GFATM Country Dialogue Launch: Resident Coordinator's Speech

6th February 2017

Honorable Ministers present

Honorable Chairperson of the South Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission, Dr Esterina Novello Nylock

Mr Rahul Singhal and your team from the Global Fund against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria

Representatives of international development partners

Members of the Country Coordinating Committee

Representatives of the key affected populations and the people living with the diseases

Distinguished guests and colleagues

It is my honour and pleasure to be standing here taking part in the launch of this important dialogue on the three diseases supported by the Global Fund. The United Nations system in South Sudan stands by the Ministry of Health and partners in this fight against HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria in the country. We appreciate and encourage the support of the Global Fund and other donors to this fight.

I am not the right person to speak about the statistics of these diseases in South Sudan, but let me say that we all know the devastating impact these diseases have on the people of South Sudan. Malaria is today the biggest killer disease in South Sudan. TB infections are debilitating thousands of South Sudanese across the country, including in IDP sites and in prisons. The impact of HIV and AIDS is already felt across parts

of the country but will be even more significant in the coming years if we are not able to curtail its spread and put enough people on treatment to control the disease.

The Global Fund is a key partner in ending these diseases in South Sudan. The financial support provided over the years has helped put thousands of people on treatment, strengthen health delivery systems, provided prevention options for communities and individuals and addressed the needs of key affected populations. United Nations agencies working in health have been witness to this and are also key partners to the Ministry of Health, the South Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission and line Ministries including Education, Gender, Youth, Interior and Defense, especially in the multi-sectoral response to HIV.

UN support to the three diseases does not only stop at WHO and UNAIDS; other agencies such as UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, UNHCR, UNESCO, UN Women and of course UNDP, have been at the center of the responses. It is truly a joint effort on our side and we commit to continue our support to the three diseases in all the ways possible for us. We commend the Global Fund for the continued commitment to support the people of South Sudan and we look forward to stronger partnerships with the UN system in the future.

As we launch this country dialogue process today, I want to emphasize the importance of the voice of the people living with or affected by the diseases. We need to make sure that we consult with them and that their voices are reflected in the Concept Notes for the three diseases. We need to take special consideration of those affected by the current crisis, those internally displaced due to the conflict, those in need of urgent

food aid and those in camps, including the refugees we are hosting but also our own refugees across the borders, should not be left behind.

Finally, let me also take this opportunity to express our appreciation and encouragement at the commitment shown by the Government of Transitional Unity of the Republic of South Sudan today by organizing this event. Ending AIDS, TB and Malaria in South Sudan cannot happen without strong government leadership and commitment. The presence of Ministers and senior government officials here today shows the seriousness of the government commitment to the health of the people of South Sudan. Together, we will end AIDS, TB and Malaria in South Sudan.

I thank you.