

All Correspondence should be addressed to the
Permanent Secretary
Telephone: +260 211 253040/5
Fax: +260 211 253344

MH/101/24/6
In reply, please quote

No:.....



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

NDEKE HOUSE
P.O. BOX 30205
LUSAKA

10/10/2023

Rt. Hon. Helen Clark
PMNCH Board Chair
Former Prime Minister of New Zealand
Email: pmnchboardchair@who.int

SUBJECT: COMMITTING TO ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING AND ACCELERATING ON RELATED SDG PRIORITIES IN RESPONSE TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S CALL FOR SDG TRANSFORMATION COMMITMENTS AT THE SDG SUMMIT 2023; AND IN SUPPORT OF THE 2023 GLOBAL FORUM FOR ADOLESCENTS

On behalf of the Government of Zambia, we recognize that the well-being of adolescents is critical to achieving sustainable development and acknowledge the importance of adopting a whole-of-government approach to work together in a coordinated and collaborative manner to address the multiple and intersecting factors that impact adolescents.

We commit to strengthen the government's approach to improving adolescent well-being and accelerate the achievement of related SDG priorities for adolescents and young people as a smart investment in the future of our societies, economies, and the planet. We commit to prioritize adolescent well-being, and related SDG priorities for young people in national development plans and strategies, to ensure disaggregated data collection to better understand the challenges and opportunities for ensuring adolescent well-being, and to integrate adolescent-specific indicators into the monitoring and reporting frameworks by meaningfully engaging adolescents and young people in the design, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programs that affect their well-being.

Our commitment to adolescent well-being is:

- in response to the United Nation's Secretary-General's call for national and global commitments to deliver the 'Rescue Plan for People and Planet' at the SDG Summit 2023, that will help drive SDG transformation for inclusion and sustainability in the years ahead; and
- in support of the Global Forum for Adolescents, the world's largest-ever convening of stakeholders – youth networks, governments, private sector, donors, the United Nations agencies and others – to raise attention to the need for immediate action to advance the major determinants of adolescent well-being, as a major milestone within the 1.8 Billion Young People for Change campaign, convened by PMNCH

On behalf of the Government of Zambia, we commit to:

- having clear budgetary allocations across sectors especially health, education, youth and sports for gender equality and young women empowerment.
- Allocate resources to scale up community interventions and enhance reproductive health services and information dissemination to reach adolescents with disabilities and with special needs
- Nationwide domestication and implementation of the Adolescent Health Strategic Plan and National Community health Strategy 2022-2026, the Adolescent Health Minimum and the children's code Act No.12 of 2022.
- Increased support to national level engagements among adolescents and young people in all their diversities critical in ensuring national consensus on issues hinging on policy and programming
- Support safe school policy and related gender-based violence response and prevention including in conflict and crisis
- Build new information and education programmes through support to digital health innovations and platforms on adolescent sexual and reproductive health without prejudice as provided for in the Adolescent Health Minimum Package and Standards and within the existing legal framework

Our commitments are directly aligned to the domains of the Adolescent well-being framework namely:

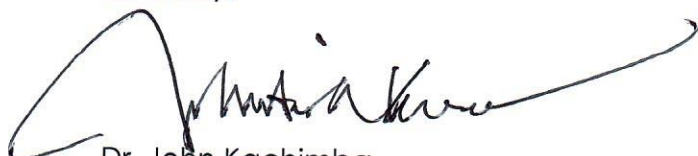
1. Health and nutrition
2. Connectedness, positive values, and contribution to society
3. Safety and a supportive environment
4. Learning, competence, education, skills, and employability
5. Agency and resilience

Our commitment is also aimed at accelerating progress towards the SDGs on:

- Health
- Education and
- Gender Equality

By making this commitment we agree to register our commitments on the SDG Summit Acceleration and Accountability Platform. We commit to systematically report on the implementation of these commitments through existing follow-up and review processes including the Voluntary National Review Process.

Sincerely,



Dr. John Kachimba
Acting Permanent Secretary- Administration
MINISTRY OF HEALTH