



National Commitment Statement by the Government of Namibia

On the occasion of the Regional Launch of the African Union Continental Strategy on Education for Health and Well Being of Young People

**9th October 2023
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Director of proceedings,
Ministers,
Dear participants,
And all protocol as established,

Namibia is honored to take part in this very important meeting.

Let me state from the onset that Namibia as a country values the wellbeing of the young people and their future. Therefore, the country makes a substantial investment in the adolescents and young people in school or out of school to ensure the country has responsible and productive citizens. The government has various programmes and policies in place that work toward ensuring the health and well-being of our children. This includes our Integrated School health Programme and Policy, National Safe School Framework, Integrated Physical Education and School Sports Policy, Life Skills Based HIV/AIDS and Health Syllabus, to name but a few.

The Ministries of Education, Health, Gender and Youth of Namibia, gathered virtually in Windhoek, on 6 December 2021, to reaffirm their vision of supporting African adolescents and young people to become continental and global citizens who are educated, healthy, resilient, socially responsible, and informed decision-makers with the capacity to contribute to their communities, country, region and the continent at large. To nurture and prepare our young people for the global village is what we as a country envisage.

There is political will in the country as demonstrated by the Cabinet endorsement of the continuation of the implementation of Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Commitment (2021-2030), in 2020. This is done with the aim to empower adolescents and young people with the necessary knowledge and skills with the use of acceptable terminology and material, to enable young people to make right choices and decisions concerning their lifestyle.

Our commitment to adolescent well-being is:

- Aligned with the African Union Strategy on Education, Health and Wellbeing;
- 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.

Namibia hereby reaffirms its commitment towards health and wellbeing for young people.