

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND SHARED VALUES

We, the First Ladies of Africa, gathered in Los Angeles, California on the occasion of The African First Ladies Health Summit, April 2009, hereby:

Recognize the unique role that First Ladies occupy in their countries and communities to influence and affect change;

Recognize the value of working together, in partnership with U.S. Doctors for Africa and African Synergy against AIDS and Suffering, and other partners, to reinforce leadership in areas that will further the following objectives:

Improve and reinforce effective health systems to advance the health and well being of women and families in our countries;

Advance the health and prosperity of women and families by addressing high priority areas including but not limited to HIV/AIDS, malaria, malnutrition, reproductive health, and maternal and child health;

With respect to malaria, we will work in our respective countries to help meet the 2010 goal of universal net coverage, and we will work in partnership with governments, private enterprises, and community and faith based institutions to help achieve this goal;

Emphasize the integral role of women in society as care-givers, role models, and providers for their children, families, and communities by advancing their education, economic empowerment and civil engagement;

Foster future leadership by advancing girls' education, economic empowerment and civil engagement.

To achieve the broad goals outlined above, we (the First Ladies of the African First Ladies Health Summit and Partners) agree to work together in the following ways in our respective countries, in accordance with local policies and international accords such as the Millennium Development Goals:

Launch joint advocacy efforts in our respective countries, and through our organizations and respective governments, to increase awareness of the aforementioned objectives;

Apply best practices and sector learnings, such as public – private partnerships, in our respective countries and program locations to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources to have impact in our target communities;

Create scalable programs that are high impact, reaching urban, suburban, and rural areas alike, in our respective countries.

These objectives are expected to be achieved by following these principles:

Evidenced-based approach to developing, implementing and monitoring programs that benefit women and children in a sustainable manner;

Global coordination and engagement along key themes common to women and children in all our countries;

Locally implemented initiatives with robust monitoring and evaluation of all our interventions and share key learnings amongst us;

Actively use technology as a means of sharing information, staying connected with our supporters, and tracking and communicating our progress.