

## KAMPALA Statement for the creation of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine



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We, participants from several African countries' Ministries of Health (Kenya, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, Cameroon, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Rwanda, D.R. Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Nigeria), and partners including representatives of Center for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Agency for International Development, Department of Defense, World Bank, Association of Public Health Laboratories, Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, American Society for Clinical Pathology American Society for Microbiology, African Field Epidemiology Network, Clinton Health Access Initiative, gathered in Kampala, Uganda, to review the remarkable progress made since the July 2009 cross-country launch of the first-ever step-wise accreditation process for Africa's medical laboratories and to discuss continued progress for future laboratory strengthening in Africa,

**Recognizing** previous efforts to elevate laboratory strengthening efforts and or set standards including:

- The Maputo declaration that calls for the global efforts to strengthen laboratory systems and services in developing countries;
- The WHO AFRO Yaoundé Resolution (AFR/RC58/6) that calls for strengthening of Public Health Laboratories in the WHO African Region as a critical need for disease control;

- The Kigali launching of the WHO AFRO laboratory accreditation process;
- The Lyon statement for implementing quality management systems in developing countries;

**Recognizing** the focus on health systems strengthening and work force development to meet global health needs;

**Recognizing** that laboratory services are an important component of health systems strengthening;

**Recognizing** that considerable progress has been made on implementing laboratory management and accreditation in Africa since the launch of the WHO AFRO laboratory accreditation step-wise process;

**Recognizing** the lack of strong professional laboratory bodies in Africa that are critical to advancing the needs of any profession;

**Call** for the establishment an African Society for Laboratory Medicine that would:

- serve as a professional body to guide laboratory network development and strengthening efforts in Africa;
- facilitate and engender South – South, North - South collaboration, partnerships and resource mobilization;
- develop and guide the process of certification of laboratory medicine training;
- work with WHO and others to develop and implement laboratory policies and guidelines in Africa;
- provide sustained advocacy for the laboratory profession at the highest levels within the countries and internationally;

- organize annual meeting for laboratory medicine practitioners;
- strengthen existing laboratory professional associations and societies and their development where none exists;
- coordinated the development and certification of laboratory medicine continuing education;
- establish a peer reviewed journal in laboratory medicine in Africa; and

**Call** for development of local partners for sustainability.

Done in Kampala, Uganda

**JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 2010**