

**'Stronger People, Brighter Future'**

**High Level Panel on Human Security, TICAD V Side Event**

**Statement by Dr. Lola Dare**

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Protocols

Your excellences last week, The African Union held an extra-ordinary summit to celebrate its 50th Anniversary! African leaders and people were all in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, strutting like proud cockerels! On 30th of May 2013, the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Agenda released its report, following a thorough and exhaustive consultative process. The report was bold, and dared to think of a collective world we can all believe in. From local to global these events are worthy of note. They both look back to learn, and from these lessons strive to guide our future. It is indeed opportune that TICAD V, a forum devoted to African development, and her participation to global development, comes directly after these events.

The African Union reaffirmed the shared vision of its leaders, and their joint commitment to an integrated and prosperous Africa, a continent where development is driven by its own citizens; its government and people are significant players in the world stage, speaking with one African voice to shape the post 2015 agenda. At the same time, the recommendations of the HLP on the Post 2015 agenda emphasise a critical need to secure our planet for all, in a sustainable way that ensures that like our regional effort, the global agenda puts people at its centre. The HLP report identifies a universal agenda with a transformative shift in 5 areas from which I would like to highlight the following commitments

(a) Leave no one behind:

*A firm commitment to the universality in access to our shared resources and assets across all sectors, clearly guided by principles of equity (geographic coverage, income and gender), financial protection and social protection, with services delivered through strengthened health systems and empowered communities and households.*

(b) Put sustainable development at its core

*A commitment to sustain and protect our world and its people*

(c) Transform economies and jobs for inclusive growth Empowerment of nations and people

*A commitment to empower nations and their people, together and for all*

(d) Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all

*A commitment to protect our rights to participation, productivity, survival and ultimately to individual, national and global development that is both responsive and accountable*

(e) Forge a new global partnership

*A final affirmation that our actions in one sector affect and influence the other, and a commitment that our approaches will be multi-sectoral, approaches that are comprehensive and integrated*

These global recommendations draw from the achievement and lessons from the Alma Ata declaration to the MDGs. They resonate with the affirmation and commitment of the

African Union and African Heads of State. This direction is supported by African Civil society organizations that contributed to the health thematic consultations that informed the position of the High Level Panel in its report. Individually and collectively, there is a strong call for a sustainable and secure world where nations and people live in dignity and are resilient, enjoying freedom from want, freedom from fear and can both live and die in dignity. These are the very same principles that drive the human security concept.

Further evidence of the added value of the human security approach is provided by the report of case studies in Africa on Health and Human Security jointly implemented by CHESTRAD International and the Japan Centre for International Exchange (JICE) with participation from Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the African Region Office of the World Health Organization (WHO-AFRO) and the Health Unit of the African Union Commission (AUC)

Across 65 case studies from 22 countries, civil society organization are well advanced in applying these principles of human security to their interventions in health. They suggest a theory of change, that links protection, empowerment responsive accountability and development effectiveness to health goals, and ultimately to human security - the freedom from want, fear, to live and we add to die in dignity

The evidence from our own work, supported by the analysis of these cases have identified that the **country context** in which health can both be secured and become insecure vary significantly across the continent ranging from political instability, weak civic institutions and capacity to effectively engage and ultimately empower our communities through the different phases of empowerment, enabling them to be engaged, to demand for accountability and take responsibility by that same demand to secure their own health and be resilient to health risks and threats.

The **root causes** of insecure health often lie in fragmented policies, weak health systems, limited financing, poorly distributed human resources, the challenges to protect our medicines and supply systems as well as health information systems that are not only inaccurate but are incomplete. The resultant **direct health threats** which result in ill-health and death are also fostered by insecurities in other sectors including housing, nutrition, traditional and cultural norms as well as challenges in water and sanitation amongst a myriad of issues identified across all case studies as **indirect threats**.

Across the African case studies reviewed, we identified that both protection and empowerment are dynamic forces, affecting access to health care, of not only the vulnerable, but across all populations, with the consequence of various health threats that are identified by the HLP report as the unfinished business of the MDG agenda and the new priorities that are proposed in Goal 4. It is obviously the case that there is increasing global consensus that the risks and threats that make our world insecure and our life expectancy short are as closely related as the solutions that will protect and empower us to achieve the bold goals of the transformative shift proposed in the HLP. The value adding benefit of the human security framework and approach to our programmes and engagement in health cannot be more obvious or relevant at this time.

The African case study recommendations calls for the consideration and adoption of human security approach for health in Africa, requesting its further examination as the framework for health programmes as we move towards an agenda to sustain our world and ensure that its people are healthy. A healthy planet and healthy people must be the

key outcome of the global call for sustainable development and poverty eradication; they must be our shared vision and agenda. Our report concludes that the human security approach is not only appropriate as a strategy for conflict and humanitarian responses but also relevant for the design of multi-sector programmes in health and overall development in times of peace. Its approach to protection and empowerment can guide and inform community-provider partnerships in health and be the bedrock of responsive accountability - to people that are empowered to participate in, and demand for health as both a right and a responsibility.

Your Excellences, I am pleased to share with you today, the policy dialogue and advocacy brief from the African cases studies on health and human security. **'Promoting Resilience and Securing Human Dignity: A human security approach for achieving universal health access in Africa'**, calls for action, directed at development partners, national governments, implementers and practitioners. It calls for the integration of the human security approach firmly into the Post 2015 development agenda; the development of global and region specific technical reference and policy guideline documents; for expanded policy dialogue and advocacy and support for larger scale implementation research based on an adaptive and learning framework. It looks forward to the Post 2015 development partnership and calls both African policy makers, regional institutions and civil society to deepen advocacy efforts for a human security approach to inform programme design and implementation for health in Africa. This will require the adoption of a multi-sector approach, with comprehensive integrated planning that gives adequate considerations to strategies that protect our planet and people from threats, reduce the risks and not only supports local engagement but actively empowers communities and households to take responsibility and own their own development. Framing our global development agenda using the human security approach will reduce the current fragmentation of our investments and resources; it will catalyze the impact of investments in one sector across others; it will protect the rights of all people to an overarching development goal - improved well being measured by healthy life expectancy as it simultaneously empowers them to take responsible action and be engaged to reduce risk, manage threats, be resilient and ultimately live and die in dignity. This is the human security approach that we require if our bold aspirations are to inspire the change we all seek for and a future we must leave for our children

We have applied this human security approach and analysis to our work with communities in Nigeria, utilized its approach to productively catalyze inform policy advocacy and catalyze action even when we could not distinctly identify it as the human security approach. More recently, we have applied this human security approach and analysis to case studies submitted for review by our members and partners, and share their confidence that the application of this approach to health and development is the way forward to ensure peace and sustain development. The human security approach provides us with a flexible, adaptable and responsive framework that supports universal health access, equity, social and financial protection that is multi-sectoral in both programming and impact. These, amongst others are the added value of the human security approach to health, and also to global development.

I must conclude with an expression of thanks to all our members, collaborators and par. Special thanks to Prof. Keizo Takemi who I now understand is back in the political arena in Japan, committing as much time to the empowerment of his own people as he does to ensuring that all health policies and development investments ensures the same to all,

where ever they live, work and play. It is to the great credit to the Government and people of Japan that the TICAD events of the past years have contributed to guiding global investments in Africa. It is our expectation that this will continue to support African leaders and our regional aspiration for an integrated and prosperous Africa until our future is secured and our citizens live long healthy lives.

Your Excellences, I thank you for your kind attention

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