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Dear Hon. Minister/Permanent Secretary/Principal Secretary/Under Secretary,

RE: VIRTUAL MEETING TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE DRAFT EAC REGIONAL HIV & AIDS STRATEGIC PLAN, 1ST - 3RD FEBRUARY 2023

I have the honour to refer to the above captioned subject matter.

The EAC Secretariat has been implementing the EAC Integrated Health Programme (EIHP) since 2016. The programme aims at strengthening regional cooperation on Reproductive Maternal, New Born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), HIV/AIDS, TB and STIs among others, through adoption of innovative health Policies and Approaches.

The goal of the programme is to contribute towards the elimination of preventable Maternal, New Born, and Child deaths, AIDS and improvement of wellbeing among women, children, adolescents and families in the East African Community.

The 22nd Sectoral Council on Health took note that EAC Secretariat secured funds from SIDA for the costed extension of the programme running from July 2022 - June 2023 with the intention of sustaining the progress and achievements made in the improvement of women and children's health and the fight against HIV and AIDS. The Sectoral Council approved the workplan and budget of the costed extension of July 2022 - June 2023 (***EAC/SCHealth/22/Decision 003***). During this costed extension, one of key activities include reviewing and updating the EAC Regional HIV & AIDS Strategic Plan.

The EAC Secretariat worked with UNAIDS to conduct preliminary review of the Strategy by undertaking a desk review to inform the development of the new Strategy for 2022-2026. Furthermore, the EAC Secretariat undertook country consultations for the new strategy plan from 3rd to 14th Oct 2022 and the outcome of this consultation was presented to the 8th Joint TWG on RMNCAH and HIV/AIDS that was held from 2nd to 5th Nov 2022. The 8th JTWG noted a need for a regional consultation to enrich different components of the draft strategy including TB component.

Therefore, in order to operationalize and implement the above decision, the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with **Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations (EANNASO)** plans to convene a blended meeting to review and update the draft EAC Regional HIV & AIDS Strategic Plan 2022-2026 from **1st to 3rd February 2023**.

The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to inform you about the planned event and to request you to officially nominate a total of two (2) stakeholders from your Partner State to participate in the Virtual meeting:

- i. National Head of HIV/AIDS (Programme Manager HIV/AIDS) from the Partner State (1)
- ii. National Head of TB (Programme Manager TB) from the Partner State (1)

Kindly, submit the names of the nominated delegates to **Angela Msuya** at amsuya@eachq.org and eac@eachq.org by **27th January, 2023** to facilitate meeting logistics and planning.

Please accept, Hon. Minister/Permanent/Principal Secretary/Under Secretary, the assurances of our highest consideration.



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FOR: SECRETARY GENERAL

Cc:

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