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World Leaders Join Efforts to Bridge Gaps in Malaria Control, Expand Access to Life-Saving Bednets and Medicines in Africa

International Partners and African Leaders Announce New Commitments To Achieve Universal Access to Malaria Control and Treatment

At a time of global economic uncertainty, a high-level group of international partners is rallying behind Africa's leaders to help bridge gaps in universal access to malaria treatment and prevention. In an event at UN Headquarters on Wednesday, September 22, prominent global leaders in the fight against malaria will announce a series of new commitments designed to accelerate the achievement of 2010 and 2015 goals for malaria. African heads of state will announce complementary efforts, including the elimination of taxes and tariffs on bednets, medicines, and other life-saving malaria products; the banning of artemisinin monotherapies that increase disease resistance; and enhancements in Africa's capacity to produce safe and effective anti-malaria products. The Summit occurs just months before the UN Secretary-General's deadline for achieving universal access to malaria control tools, and the session will discuss the steps required to achieve the goal of ending malaria-related deaths by 2015.

WHO: Global leaders in the fight against malaria including Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**, H.E. **Mizendo Pinda**, Prime Minister, Tanzania; H.E. **Ernest Koroma**, President of Sierra Leone; **Nick Clegg**, Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Mr. **Bill Gates**, Co-Chair and Trustee of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; **Robert Zoellick**, President of the World Bank Group, Dr. **Margaret Chan**, Director-General, World Health Organization; Dr. **Michel Kazatchkine**, Executive Director of the Global Fund; **Raymond Chambers**, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria, and others, will mark progress and announce new commitments, along with members of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, ALMA.

WHAT: Bridging the Malaria Gap: Saving Children - Supporting Women.

WHERE: ECOSOC Chamber, North Lawn Building, United Nations Headquarters

WHEN: September 22, 4:30- 5:30 PM

WHY: African leaders, and leaders of the global health community are meeting to strategize and develop the most effective practices to combat malaria.

All journalists seeking to cover events at the United Nations must have a valid UN media grounds pass. For details, please refer to the website of the UN's Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit (MALU)

<http://www.un.org/media/accreditation/index.htm>