

## **COUNCIL OF AFRICAN CABINET SECRETARIES**

### **LILONGWE DECLARATION**

*We, the Cabinet Secretaries and their representatives assembled in Lilongwe for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Roundtable Meeting of African Cabinet Secretaries, hereby declare the following:*

- 1. That individually and collectively we shall continue to take proactive and practical steps to increase the use of evidence to inform the decision-making of our Cabinets, to better support them to make sound decisions for the benefit of our peoples, decisions that can and will be effectively implemented.*
- 2. That, depending on the circumstances in our jurisdictions and the wishes of our Governments, these steps shall variously include:*
  - a. Ensuring Cabinet procedures and processes are effective in requiring policy proposals to include evidence that assists Cabinet's decision-making, and ensuring that Cabinet members have sufficient opportunity to review proposals before Cabinet meetings;*
  - b. Developing the capacity of our Cabinet Secretariats to promote and review the use of evidence in the preparation of policy proposals for consideration by Cabinet;*
  - c. Making more effective use of Cabinet Committees to consider evidence-informed policy proposals and to commission evidence on the wider implications of policy proposals;*
  - d. Building the capacity of line Ministries and agencies to prepare evidence-informed policy proposals, to be able to identify and assess relevant evidence and to present it clearly and concisely to Cabinet;*
  - e. Ensuring effective liaison and communication between the Cabinet Secretariat and Ministries through Cabinet Liaison Officer networks and similar mechanisms;*
  - f. Improving coordination between and within Ministries to devise and deliver the cross-government and cross-sectoral policies and programmes necessary to address the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as continuing and emerging development priorities;*
  - g. Undertaking or commissioning research into Cabinet processes and systems, including e-Cabinet, to help identify what works in what situations;*
  - h. Continuing to benefit from the experiences of our African peers through an expanded Africa Cabinet Government Network, including its Roundtable meetings, international training programmes, exchange programmes and other information sharing media; and*
  - i. Promoting this declaration to our Governments and broader communities.*

*Agreed at Lilongwe, Malawi*

*22 April 2016.*