Zanzibar Declaration on Counterfeit Medical Products and Pharmaceutical Crime 2nd September 2010

We, the participants in the Zanzibar Meeting for Mamba III on counterfeit medical products and pharmaceutical crime, recognizing that:

Counterfeiting of medicines and pharmaceutical crime, including the entire range of activities from manufacturing to dispensing them to patients, is a vile and serious crime that puts human lives at risk and undermines the credibility of health system;

Counterfeiting of medical products and other related pharmaceutical offences are a serious crime that, because of its impact on health, should be combated and punished accordingly;

Coordinating efforts of all the different public and private stakeholders that are affected and are competent for addressing the different aspects of the problem is crucial;

Cooperation with International Organizations is important to implement regional and national enforcement anti-counterfeiting strategies;

Establishing an adequate and relevant legal basis - comprising criminal, administrative and civil frameworks - for enforcing and supervising compliance with laws and regulations by all concerned agencies is paramount;

This legal basis can be applied to all counterfeit medical products locally manufactured, imported or exported, in transit, in trans-shipment, in bonded warehouses, in free zones and in all situations related to international trade:

Declare:

Our commitment to strengthen the fight against counterfeit medical products and other pharmaceutical crimes in the East African Community region by developing specific multi-disciplinary enforcement mechanisms and raising awareness;

Our willingness as Partner States to consider using the existing communication tools such as those from INTERPOL, World Customs Organization (WCO) and World Health Organization (WHO) to improve coordination and exchange of information amongst health, customs, police, judicial, and other enforcement authorities and by considering;

The necessity to harmonize health regulations and create an appropriate criminal law to combat counterfeit medical products - that can be branded or generic products - and pharmaceutical crime with the support of the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat;

The need to develop forensic investigations, to strengthen market surveillance and our willingness to leverage the laboratory capacity to detect and produce evidences related to counterfeit medical products;

Our disposition to foster international cooperation in combating counterfeit medical products, pharmaceutical crime and to coordinate with the concerned international organizations such as INTERPOL, World Customs Organization (WCO) World Health Organization (WHO),

Our support to the IMPACT multidisciplinary partnership and more particularly in matters of:

- Producing tools and training materials based on the needs of all the stakeholders in the region;
- Supporting the various agencies in investigating counterfeit medical products and pharmaceutical crime;
- Coordinating and encouraging activities and techniques for enforcement, implementation in the EAC region;