

PRESS RELEASE

The Kigali Summit on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases

June 23, 2022 - Kigali - *Commonwealth leaders gathered today for the Kigali Summit on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) to renew their commitment and agree on actions to end malaria and NTDs.*

Addressing the audience, His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of Rwanda, applauded the achievements made, but also reflected on the efforts needed to move forward. He called for more support to successfully eradicate malaria and other NTDs by 2030.

"This week the Commonwealth will commit to ending malaria by 2030. We need your support to make this happen. (...) If there is one thing the pandemic has taught us, it is that together, through coordinated and collaborative action, we can achieve much more." Paul Kagame said.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales highlighted that concerted actions and bold initiatives were crucial for the successful eradication of malaria and other NTDs.

"I welcome the Declaration that is being launched today. While we have achieved so much in the malaria campaign since 2000, I'm afraid that largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there remains a great amount to do." HRH The Prince of Wales said.

Award winning author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie contributed to the discussion by urging Commonwealth leaders to make the fight against tropical diseases a priority.

"We have the knowledge; what we need now is leadership. Leaders who believe. Leaders who have hope. We must make malaria and other tropical diseases a priority, because we know it can be done." Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie said.

The Kigali Summit brought together some of the most influential voices in global health, including world leaders, leading WHO figures, philanthropists, scientific experts, global influencers and community champions.

The Summit ended with a Call to Action, focusing on the specific actions needed to end malaria and NTDs once and for all, later on signing the Kigali Declaration.

For media inquiries, or to access our photo gallery of the event please visit <https://www.chogm2022.rw/media/>.