

**Statement by Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of the launch of “Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: a road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021-2030”**

**28 January 2021**

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) continue to affect over 1 billion people worldwide, mainly in poor and marginalized communities.

Besides inflicting immense suffering and causing life-long disability, NTDs also lead to stigma, inequity and discrimination – with huge mental health implications.

Increasing access to diagnosis and treatment is essential but is not enough. More needs to be done in terms of cross-sectoral interventions and One Health. This is the underlying vision of the NTD road map 2021-2030 being launched today.

The new NTD road map is innovative and offers a powerful contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, and especially Universal Health Coverage. It addresses vulnerabilities and by doing so, it promotes equity.

But its ambitious targets cannot be achieved unless we unite and act together with ambition.

-----