

**Remarks by Mr Nils Jansons, Acting Head of the EU Delegation to South Africa,
at the Official Launch of the Partnership Framework for Health Service Delivery,
Pretoria, 21st January, 2011**

EU support to the Department of Health

The EU has a longstanding relationship with South Africa, which dates back to before 1994. The then *Special Programme for the Victims of Apartheid* supported a number of interventions in the health sector. After the 1994 democratic elections, our relations have gone from strength to strength and in 2007 we established the EU-SA Strategic Partnership. Development Co-operation is an important element of our partnership, with an overall budget of €80m for the period 2007-2013.

Since 1994, the EU has made financial commitments of some €300m to the health sector in South Africa, mainly to Primary Health Care and HIV/AIDS. Currently we are supporting the Department of Health in the contracting of over 1000 NGOs, through the *Expanded Partnerships Programme for the Delivery of Primary Health Care*, providing home- based care services to close on 1 million people!

We are very pleased with the recent approval of the €126m envelope for the *Primary Health Care Sector Policy Support Programme*. We wish to emphasise the importance of this programme, as it is the largest health programme of the European Commission in the world! It will support the Department of Health in the revitalisation of Primary Health Care throughout the country. As soon as the South African Government signs the Financing Agreement, we will proceed with the first disbursement.

We trust that together we will find a suitable occasion to officially launch this programme. Technical co-operation and support to civil society is part of our support and the EU Delegation looks forward to discussing the details of this type of support with the Department.

Aid Effectiveness Framework for Health (AEF), donor co-ordination and sector dialogue

We would like to congratulate the Minister for the efforts to improve donor co-ordination, and in particular, for the development of an Aid Effectiveness Framework (AEF) for Health. We feel that the framework will encourage us all to pull in the same direction. On a general note, the EU Delegation feels that, as many of the principles in the draft document are derived from the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and as we have all signed up to that document, we can accept the scope and the principles as laid down in the Aid Effectiveness Framework.

The EU takes note of the intention to have a Health Sector Performance Assessment Framework in place, which is very important to all of us, because our overall objective is the implementation of the health sector policy, in line with the principle of managing for results (as stated in the Paris Declaration). We agree that performance assessment must be led by Government, but it is important to also include in our dialogue the Government's assessment of its own performance in the health sector (using NSDA and the revised indicators), and a part of this will be co-ordination of the monitoring and assessment of the performance of the

contributions from Development Partners. This, in our view, is what is meant by mutual accountability, also one of the Paris Declaration principles. Dialogue on public financial management should also form a part of the assessment.

The EU Delegation would like to emphasise that we consider the **Annual Development Partners' Consultation Forum**, or under its new name "ODA Co-ordinating Forum", an important annual meeting between the Minister and us, the Development Partners. It is even a requirement under our new *Primary Health Care Programme*. We accept the change in name of this forum, whilst expecting that it will continue to be a platform, which will not focus solely on ODA, but will also allow for strategic dialogue on the progress of the implementation of health sector priorities, the health budget and Medium Term Expenditure Framework, as well as relevant public financial management issues at sector level.

More frequent technical meetings between the Department of Health and Development Partners are already taking place through the existing EU+ Health and HIV Working Group, currently led by the Swedish Embassy. We are open to discuss and even encourage the Department to take a lead role in this working group and to restructure it to its benefit.

Finally, coming back to the renewed focus on Primary Health Care, and in the context of the EU-funded *Primary Health Care Programme*, as well as the *Expanded Partnerships Programme*, we are interested to hear more regarding the new approach to community health workers.

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to respond to your address.