Mrs. Tobeka Zuma, First Lady of the Republic of South Africa, leads the African Delegation to India to attend the High Level Convening on Cervical Cancer, New Delhi, India 16 October 2016 to 18 October 2016

**India, 17 October, 2016**- Following the successful China mission to commemorate the 2016 "Love in the Sunshine' China – Africa Summer Camp” in Beijing, the Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation, led by its patron and founder Madame Tobeka Madiba Zuma attended the Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control high level convening in India.

*“This global high level meeting recognizes that the women of our countries continue to experience inequalities, multiple health and socio-economic burdens. Now, let's remember that there was a time when those affected by cancer never could have imagined all these pink ribbons that would one day grace the Globe and States Houses. I don't think they could have imagined people like us placed in unique positions of influence, putting on our pink gloves and ready to fight,”* said Madame Tobeka Madiba Zuma.

The High-level Convening brought together senior country representatives and global experts to exchange best practices and chart out possible roadmaps to reduce the burden of Cancer in India and beyond. Mme Zuma delivered a key note speech as a guest of honour at the inaugural event. She shared the milestones South Africa has celebrated in recent years, and the challenges it has faced in its continuous effort to fight cancers. She stressed that a collaborative approach is the only way forward and highlighted the importance of looking at a comprehensive approach towards elimination.

*“Please allow me to share a South African Road Map initiative used to implement the HPV vaccine programme. While we are not GAVI eligible as a country, we were able to obtain a multi-million grant from Treasury Department to roll-out the Free HPV Vaccination Program in 2014 in all our public schools using the Integrated School Health Program which was launched by President Zuma in 2012. The set 2014 target was 420 000 girls and managed to reach a total of 92%. A further 356 230 girls in 2015 were also vaccinated. This roadmap highlights how the lower and middle income countries can overcome the divide in access to basic health care between developing and developed countries.”*

The event was organized by Global Health Strategies with several Indian and international partners working on cervical cancer, including the Union for International Cancer Control, Women Deliver, the American Cancer Society and Merck.

Stakeholders present expressed that a high-level convening would help advance cervical cancer prevention and control (CCPC) efforts in India by elevating the importance of the issue, and initiating conversations between the various relevant government bodies, technical experts, civil society groups, champions and the media.

Contact: Laila Saada, laila.saada@tmzfoundation.co.za; +27 83 413 6296; Olona Tywabi, tmzfas9@tmzfoundation.co.za; +27 82 436 0976.

The Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation, founded in 2009, is an advocate for prevention, treatment and care of non-communicable diseases, a #cancersmart South Africa, TB and HIV prevention, treatment and care. For more information follow TMZ Foundation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.