The Regional Committee appointed the Subcommittee on Nominations consisting of the following Member States:

- Benin
- Chad
- Ethiopia
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

TRAVEL

A travel desk is available at the entrance of the Conference Centre.

WIFI ACCESS

Internet can be freely accessed without passwords

SHUTTLE DEPARTURE TIME FROM THE HOTELS - Wednesday 21st November 2012

HOTEL                     DESTINATION      DEPARTURE TIME
VICTORIA GARDEN            TALATONA        08:00
POR DO SOL                 TALATONA        08:30
CHIK CHIK                  TALATONA        08:30
CALOR TOPICAL              TALATONA        08:00
HA BH                      TALATONA        08:00
SUN SHINE                  TALATONA        08:30
ROSA VALLIS                TALATONA        08:30
SHON FULI                  TALATONA        08:30

DECADE OF VACCINES AND GAVI ALLIANCE UPDATE

A Side event will be held today from 16:00 to 18:00 hours in the Plenary room, under the following theme: Decade of Vaccines and GAVI Alliance Update which will be presided over by the Chairperson of RC62.

Programme:
- Opening remarks by the Regional Director;
- Overview of the Global Vaccine Action Plan;
- GAVI update by the Chief Executive Officer;
- Discussions;
- Closing remarks by the Regional Director.

7000 - 08:30 Breakfast meeting
Follow-up meeting to the recommendations of the Commission on life saving Commodities for Women and Children
To be attended by 9 countries by invitation

09:00 - 10:30 Agenda Item 10
Disaster risk management: a strategy for the health sector in the African Region
(Document AFR/RC62/6) - Subcommittee A

Agenda Item 11
Road map for scaling up human resources for health for improved health services delivery in the African Region 2012-2025
(Document AFR/RC62/7) - Subcommittee B

10:30 - 11:00 Tea break

11:00 - 12:00 Agenda Item 12
Consideration and endorsement of the Brazzaville Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases
(Document AFR/RC62/8) - Subcommittee A

Agenda Item 13
Health Promotion: strategy for the African Region
(Document AFR/RC62/9) - Subcommittee B

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch break

12:30 - 13:00 Meeting of the Subcommittee on Credentials

14:00 - 15:30 Agenda Item 14
HIV/AIDS: strategy for the African Region
(Document AFR/RC62/10) - Subcommittee A

Agenda Item 15
Health and human rights: current situation and way forward in the African Region
(Document AFR/RC62/11) - Subcommittee B

15:30 - 16:00 Tea break

16:00 - 18:00 Side event
Decade of Vaccines and GAVI Alliance Update
End of day's session
The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Luis Gomes Sambo, who also spoke on behalf of the WHO Director General Dr Margaret Chan, started by hailing the Government of Angola for having taken up the challenge of organizing the 62nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, and for the fact that the country had re-established peace, making it possible to turn Angola into a real development project with tangible results to show from the economic, social and cultural standpoint.

He expressed his profound gratitude to the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency Eng. José Eduard dos Santos for the conditions put in place for the holding of Regional Committee and for the support given to him for the work of WHO in the African Region.

In his speech, Dr Sambo emphasized that average life expectancy at birth in the African region is estimated at 54 years compared to 68 years at the global level and that the African Region, which is home to about 12% of the world population, accounted for nearly 18.6% of deaths that occurred in 2008. He emphasized that communicable diseases represent 43% of total deaths in the African Region and that diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, tuberculosis and child diseases cause 88% of deaths. Only HIV/AIDS is accountable for 15.6% of the total deaths in the Region.

Even so, the WHO Regional Director stressed that significant progress has been made in the control of HIV/AIDS particularly in reduction of vertical transmission of HIV, reduction of malaria morbidity and mortality by about 50% in 12 countries of the Region; interruption of poliomyelitis transmission; reduction of the under-five mortality and of maternal mortality from 720 deaths per 100,000 live-births in 2000 to 480 deaths per 100,000 live-births in 2010. Dr Luis Sambo said that chronic diseases, including mental disorders and injuries represent nearly 60% of the current burden of diseases at global level and that the burden of chronic diseases has increased rapidly, affecting in particular the poorest and neediest populations. The majority of these diseases are associated with risk factors such as smoking unhealthy diet, lack of exercise and alcohol abuse. He stressed the need to strengthen health promotion activities.

In conclusion the Regional Director summed stressed following issues:

- The health status of the African populations has improved in recent years and is expected to keep improving.
- Economic growth in Africa provides new opportunities for successful reform but health systems would need to benefit from these.
- Reforms should impact on key-performing health system components such as financing, human resources, health information systems and epidemiological surveillance, health technologies, research and innovation.
- In the decision-making process, account should be taken of the opinions and expectations of communities and community-based organizations in matters of health.
- Intersectoral dialogue for health should be strengthened through leadership of Ministers of Health with a view to promoting social determinants and establishing objective conditions that reduce inequalities in health and achieve universal coverage of health care in Africa.

Dr Luis Gomes Sambo
Regional Director for Africa

The opening ceremony of the 62nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC62) took place at the Centro de Convenções de Talatona in Luanda, Republic of Angola, on 19th November 2012.

The ceremony had the following speakers:

- Dr José Vieira Dias Van-Dúnem, Minister of Health of Angola;
- Dr Luis Gomes Sambo, WHO Regional Director for the Africa;
- His Excellency Eng. Manuel Domingos Vicente, Vice-President of the Republic of Angola.

The Regional Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:
Dr José Vieira Dias Van-Dúnem, Minister of Health of Angola

1st Vice-Chairman:
Mr. Housseynou Hamady Ba, Minister of Health, Mauritania

2nd Vice-Chairman:
Dr Walter T. Gwennéla, Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Liberia

Rapporteurs:
Mrs Mahlet Kifle Hambaramariam, Ethiopia, (English)
Prof. Dorothée Kindé Gizard, Minister of Health, Benin (French)
Dr Cristina Fonseca, Minister of Health, Cape Verde (Portuguese)

LAUNCHING OF KEY HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

Two key publications were launched yesterday as part of RC62 activities.

The first, “Health Systems in Africa: Community Perceptions and Perspectives” is a report of a study done in ten African countries. The study demonstrates that certainly, communities have a clear understanding of health and services delivery.

According to the study, communities perceived health to be “physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, social and economic well-being”. This perception even surpasses WHO’s definition of health.

From that perspective, the study notes that good health systems should therefore be people-centred with policies, knowledge sharing, infrastructure access to essential health services and strong community involvement. Consequently, the study stresses that people’s perspectives, if taken into account by health planners could help improve health systems responsiveness and effectiveness in the African Region and this is “the untapped potential” that should never be missed.

Notable recommendation made by study include establishment of a mechanism to increase health provider’s awareness about community perspective of health; establishment of community-based surveillance for detecting and reporting the most common problems; expansion of the range health interventions to also address needs of adolescents and older persons; establishment of appropriate health financing mechanisms; carry-out social, epidemiological and health services research; and documentation and sharing of best practices.

The second publication, “Compendium of Public Health Strategies” pulls together strategies adapted by WHO Regional Committee from 1998 to 2011”. Arranged around the six Strategic Directions of WHO, the publication provides easy retrieval and access to the strategies.

For each Strategic Direction, the publication opens with an Executive Summary that highlights the health issues that the Strategic Direction focuses on. Following the Executive Summary, there are detailed chapters that are arranged around the Strategic Directions of the publication.

Dr Luis Gomes Sambo
Regional Director for Africa

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK – DAY 1: Wednesday 21st November 2012

09:00 – 10:30 Agenda Item 16
Implementation of International Health Regulations (2005) in the WHO African Region (Document AFR/RC62/12) - Subcommittee A

10:30 – 11:00
Tea break

11:00 – 11:10 Agenda Item 6 (cont’d)
Report of the Subcommittee on Credentials

11:10 – 12:30 Agenda Item 17
The African Health Observatory: opportunity for strengthening health information systems through national health observatories (Document AFR/RC62/13) - Subcommittee B

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:00 Agenda Item 18 (cont’d)

15:00 – 15:30 Tea break

15:30 – 17:00 Agenda Item 19
Optimizing Global Health Initiatives to strengthen national health systems (Document AFR/RC62/15)

17:00 – 17:15 Statement by the representative of Harmonization for Health in Africa (HHA)

17:15 – 19:00 End of day’s session

19:00 Reception offered by WHO