

RC66: GUIDE AND IMPORTANT CONTACTS

HOTEL CONTACTS

1. SHERATON ADDIS	TEL: 251 116 62 36 34
2. RADISSON BLU	TEL: 251 115 15 76 00
3. HILTON HOTEL	TEL: 251 115 51 84 00
4. ELLIY INTERNATIONAL HOTEL	TEL: 251 115 58 77 73
5. CAPITAL HOTEL AND SPA	TEL: 251 116 67 21 00
6. INTERCONTINENTAL ADDIS HOTEL	TEL: 251 115 50 50 66

RESTAURANTS IN ADDIS ABABA

1. SHERATON ADDIS, LOCATED IN THE UNCC.
2. FINFINE, LOCATED IN THE NIGERIAN LOUNGE.
3. KALDIS, LOCATED IN THE ROTUNDA AND ZAMBEZI BUILDING.
4. TIVOLI, LOCATED BY THE UNECA ENTRANCE (VEHICLES).

WHO CONTACT PERSONS

1. DR. KALU, AKPAKAA, WHO REPRESENTATIVE	TEL: 251 944 25 23 26
2. MR PIERRE LESSIMI, OPERATIONS OFFICER	TEL: 251 935 99 86 41
3. MS LISHAN NEGUSSIE, LOGISTICS AND PROCUREMENT	TEL: 251 944 73 19 82
4. MR TESHOME FANTAYE, PROTOCOL ASSISTANT	TEL: 251 912 12 00 24
5. MR ODON MUSHOBEKWA – ADMIN. SERVICES OFFICER	TEL: 251 967 88 29 93
6. MR AMPA TRESOR, TRAVEL OFFICER	TEL: 251 967 88 29 75
7. MRS TOTH, CONFERENCE AND PROTOCOL OFFICER	TEL: 251 965 55 66 52
8. MR HOUNGBO KOFI, TRANSPORT OFFICER	TEL: 251 967 88 29 80
9. MR WOLDE BEKELE, TRANSPORT OFFICER	TEL: 251 912 20 09 77

SECURITY CONTACT PERSONS

1. POLICE HOT LINE :	TEL.: 991
2. POLICE	TEL.:251 111 57 21 21
3. UN SECURITY	TEL.:251 115 44 55 55
4. UN SECURITY	TEL.:251 115 51 65 37
5. UN SECURITY	TEL.:251 115 51 29 45
6. WHO/FSO, MR FOFANA IBRAHIM	TEL.: 251 967 88 29 93

MEDICAL SERVICES AND CONTACT PERSONS

THE UNITED NATIONS HEALTH CENTRE, SITUATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE CONFERENCE CENTRE, PROVIDES EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO PARTICIPANTS/ DELEGATES ATTENDING MEETINGS.

IN CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL THE PHONE NUMBERS LISTED ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS INFORMATION NOTE.

1. DR GRACE FOMBAD, UN HEALTH CARE CENTRE	TEL.: 251 115 51 72 00
	TEL.:251 115 51 58 28
2. DR ROLAND RIZET, WHO	TEL.: 251 929 450 518
3. UNECA AMBULANCE	TEL.: 251 115 51 42 02
	TEL.:251 115 51 58 28

ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

Internet facilities are available throughout the Conference Centre and can be accessed via WIFI:

NETWORK: UNECA GUEST
NO PASSWORD REQUIRED

WATER

It is recommended that you drink bottled mineral water during the whole period of the RC66.

BADGES

Badges will be produced only at the conference centre. Please make sure you always wear your badge on the premises of the conference centre.

EVENTS AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

SATURDAY, 20th AUGUST:

12:30-13:30 Roll Back Malaria

18:00 Reception hosted by the WHO Regional Director

SUNDAY, 21st AUGUST:

12:30-13:30 The Ethiopian Experience with Emergency Medical Services and the Health Development Army

19:30 Stop TB

Meeting of Ministers of Lake Chad countries and Central African Republic

MONDAY, 22th AUGUST:

13:30-14:30 The GAVI Alliance

18:00-19:30 Experience of China on the Universal Health Coverage and updates on China's collaboration with Africa

TUESDAY, 23rd AUGUST:

11:00 Closure of the RC66 – 11:00

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The local currency is the Ethiopian Birr. All local banks provide currency exchange services with an exchange rate that is uniform. Please note that it is illegal to exchange your currency on the black market – only deal with official banks. All major hotels have FOREX services.

ATMs are widely available in hotels, on the UNECA compound and around the city. VISA cards are widely accepted, and some ATMs now accept MasterCard as well. Almost all transactions are cash-based, so please plan accordingly.

HELP DESK

For any inquiries or assistance, please call the Help Desk (Mr C Youdi, and Mr T.Meki) on: **(251) 0925 50 05 23 and 0929 50 05 22**

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE, READ ABOUT

- **Key highlights of the proposed Regional Oral Health Strategy**
- **Improving Health Security in the African Region.**
- **3 Ministers of Health discuss key health issues affecting their countries**



66th SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Available on the Internet: <http://www.afro.who.int>

ISSUED IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE

No. 02: 20th August 2016

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE



The official opening ceremony of the 66th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa was held at the Economic Commission for Africa Conference Centre in Addis Ababa (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia) on 19th August 2016.

The meeting was officially opened by His Excellency the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Dr. Mulatu Teshome in the presence of Ethiopian Minister of Health Dr Kesete-birhan Admasu Birhane; the Director General of WHO, Dr Margaret Chan; the President of the 65th Session of the Regional Committee and Chadian Minister of Public Health, Dr. Assane Nguéadoum and the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti and delegations from the 47 Member States of the WHO African Region and partners.

“LET US LEARN FROM OUR EXPERIENCES AND BE READY FOR THE FUTURE”: HE DR. MULATU TESHOME, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

The President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, His Excellency Dr. Mulatu Teshome officially opened the 66th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Addis Ababa on 19th August 2016.

In his opening address, he praised African governments and WHO for the significant results achieved in the health sector. “Over the past two decades, we have made significant achievements that have helped save millions of lives and improved the quality of life of our people. We should be proud of these results”, he said.

The President also called for vigilance and caution. “We must not be complacent. It is imperative that we continue to equip ourselves to remain engaged and to set goals to reach higher levels of achievement”, he added.

His Excellency Dr. Mulatu Teshome, paid tribute to African communities for making and owning results of their good health and to policy makers for setting the transformation agenda in the health sector. Dr Teshome also paid tribute to health workers, for their tireless dedication to the task and to national and international partners for their commitment and continued support. Finally, he thanked the private sector for their partnership in health.

On challenges of the African continent in the future, the President pointed out the close relationship between poverty and health. “Health is one of the important determinants of the incidence of poverty. We need to acknowledge the instrumental and intrinsic value of good health and give it the necessary attention”.

Another challenge that the President highlighted is the increase in the African population that could double by 2020 according to planners. This situation could put pressure on health systems in Africa. The triple burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including injuries will also be important challenges for the African Region in the coming decades.

We have to stay vigilant and prepared to address both current and emerging health threats – let us not lose sight that our present preparedness is a guaranteed investment for tomorrow” he insisted.

His Excellence Dr. Mulatu Teshome concluded by challenging the delegates to move from words to action. “Actions speak louder than words and we must deliver on our promises”.



His Excellency Dr. Mulatu Teshome
President of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia

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“PUT YOUR PEOPLE FIRST” WHO DIRECTOR GENERAL, DR CHAN ADVISES AFRICAN MINISTERS OF HEALTH



Dr Margaret Chan
WHO Director-General

In her last official address to the WHO Regional Committee for Africa the WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan gave three pieces of advice to the African Health Ministers and other delegates attending the 66th session of the WHO Regional Committee. These can contribute to the advancement of the health agenda in Member States.

First, Dr Chan advised delegates to always be patient. “Take your cue from Africa’s 2063 agenda, which adopts a very long-term view.” She added that donors want quick results, “but it takes time to build well-functioning health systems, to develop pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity, and to implement the business plan for the African Medicines Agency”.

Secondly, she advised delegates to understand that changes that contribute to economic growth or follow in its wake can introduce new threats to health. Economic benefits, she said, do not always offset detrimental impacts.

Thirdly Dr Chan advised delegates to stay optimistic. “The future of Africa depends on its people, and not on commodity prices or oil and mineral reserves. Put your people first. Take good care of their health. And set their talents loose” she said.

Earlier, Dr Chan informed delegates that the African Health Transformation Programme championed by the regional office should capitalize on a number of encouraging trends to transform the future of health on the continent. These include birth of a solid middle class, a vibrant and innovating younger generation, the ubiquitous availability of mobile phones and a dramatic increase in the use of social media.

According to Dr Chan, although Africa still has “the longest distance” to catch with the rest of the world, so much has been achieved since 2007 when she became Director-General. The achievements are proof of what can be achieved in resource-constrained settings. “They provide reason for optimism as the world moves in the areas of sustainable development”, she said.

Dr Chan informed delegates that poverty is the prominent factor that hinders health development in the region. It undermines the health of populations and cripples the performance of health systems. Fortunately Dr Chan said “the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) fundamentally address the root causes of poverty”.

Dr Chan assured delegates that a well-functioning health systems is the best defence against emerging and re-emerging disease. She added that in the SDG era, universal health coverage is good platform for fair and inclusive health development and increased global health security.

THE AFRICAN REGION MAKES SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN HEALTH WITH SUPPORT FROM THE WHO SECRETARIAT



Dr M. Moeti
WHO Regional Director for Africa

The Regional Director presented the report on the work of WHO in the African Region for the period October 2015 to June 2016. The report outlines significant achievements made on the development of health services in Member States with support of the secretariat. Highlights of the report include the successful interruption of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) transmission in West Africa with rapid control of subsequent flare-ups in Guinea and Liberia.

According to the report, the region continues to improve health security with particular focus on preparedness and swift response to outbreaks of diseases. For the current yellow fever outbreak, 126 international experts have been deployed and 14 million doses of yellow fever vaccines provided to tackle the yellow fever epidemics in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. USD 1.6 million was disbursed from WHO’s Contingency Fund for Emergencies and the African Public Health Emergency Fund to support response efforts against the yellow fever outbreaks. The Zika Virus outbreak in Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau were controlled.

The report indicated a number of “FIRSTS” within this period. They include the first ever ministerial conference on immunization in Africa jointly organized with the African Union Commission in February 2016. The conference adopted a declaration affirming universal access to immunization as a cornerstone for health and development in Africa.

Another FIRST mentioned in the report is the development of policy guidance and a legislative framework on the protection of intellectual property rights, traditional medical knowledge and access to biological resources. In addition, the first African National Health Research System (NHRS) Barometer that helps countries monitor their NHRS performance was developed in the African Region. The development of a comprehensive public health emergency risk profiling and mapping for the 47 Member States in the Region is also reported as another “FIRST”.

In April/May 2016, all the Member States in the Region completed the global switch from tri-valent Oral Polio Vaccine (tOPV) to bi-valent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) on time. The switch eliminates the risk of paralysis from vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 contained in tOPV. The report also provides progress on reducing childhood illness and mortality and on polio eradication in the region. However, the recently identified polio cases in Northern Nigeria which are quickly being responded to, reinforce the need for continued vigilance and preparedness.

The report describes the achievements made on communicable and non-communicable diseases, inter-sectoral action and on strategic partnerships for health. It also mentions the establishment of the Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ESPEN) to support countries to tackle NTDs amenable to preventative chemotherapy that replaced the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) that was closed in December 2015. ESPEN will work on lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis and trachoma.

Overall, the report demonstrates how WHO’s work touches people’s everyday lives for better health and wellbeing. It also proposed the way forward for WHO’s work with Member States and partners to achieve the best possible health outcomes for people of the Region.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK DAY 2: SATURDAY, 20th AUGUST 2016

08:45–09:00	Agenda item 4 (cont’d)	Report of the Subcommittee on Credentials
09:00–09:40	Agenda item 7 (cont’d)	Regional oral health strategy 2016-2025: addressing oral diseases as part of NCDs (Document AFR/RC66/5)
09:40–10:40	Agenda item 10	Multisectoral action for a life course approach to healthy ageing: global strategy and plan of action on ageing and health: implementation framework for the African Region (Document AFR/RC66/8)
10:40–11:00	<i>Tea break</i>	
11:00–12:30	Agenda item 8	Regional strategy for health security and emergencies (Document AFR/RC66/6)
12:30–14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13:30–14:30	<i>Side Event – Roll Back Malaria</i>	
14:30–16:00	Agenda item 9	Draft global implementation plan for the recommendations of the Review Committee on the Role of The International Health Regulation (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response (Document AFR/RC66/4)
16:00–16:30	<i>Tea break</i>	
16:30–17:30	Agenda item 11	Global strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health 2016–2030: implementation in the African Region (Document AFR/RC66/9)
17:30–18:30	Agenda item 12	Framework for implementing the End TB Strategy in the African Region 2016–2020 (Document AFR/RC66/10)
18:30	End of the day’s session	
19:00	Reception hosted by the Regional Director	

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN, THE VICE-CHAIRMEN AND RAPPORTEURS

The Regional Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman of RC66: Dr Kesete-birhan Admasu Birhane, Federal Minister of Health, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

1st Vice-Chairman: Dr Arlindo Nascimento do Rosario, Minister of Health, Cabo Verde

2nd Vice-Chairman: Dr Felix Kabange Numbi Mukwapa, Minister of Health, Democratic Republic of Congo

Rapporteurs: Prof Napo Koura Gado Agarassi, Secretary General, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Togo (French)

Dr Molotsi Monyamane, Minister of Health, Lesotho (English)

Dr Constantina Pereira Furtado Machado, Secretary of State of Health, Angola (Portuguese)



DELEGATES ATTENDING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE