REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Sixty-second session
Luanda, Republic of Angola, 19–23 November 2012

Provisional agenda item 25

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE: PRACTICES,
PRACTITIONERS AND PRODUCTS IN THE AFRICAN REGION

PANEL DISCUSSION

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BACKGROUND

1. The Sixty-first session of the Regional Committee in 2011 discussed the progress report on the implementation of both the Regional Traditional Medicine Strategy adopted in 2000 and the plan of action for the Decade of African Traditional Medicine (2001–2010). It also endorsed the proposed next steps for action by stakeholders. The next steps were updating of the Regional Strategy; increasing allocation and mobilization of additional resources to effectively implement the Strategy particularly to conduct research; strengthening the regulation of traditional medicine products, practitioners and practices taking into consideration the Algiers Declaration and the second Decade of African Traditional Medicine (2011–2020). In addition, the Regional Committee proposed “Traditional Medicine: practices, practitioners and products in the African Region” as the topic for the Panel Discussion at the Sixty-second session of the Regional Committee.

2. Several challenges have been encountered during the implementation of the current Regional Strategy. These include inadequate integration of traditional medicine in health systems, limited resources for research and development, limited regulations of traditional medicine. Other challenges include weak frameworks for effective collaboration among practitioners of traditional medicine, practitioners of conventional medicine and scientists; limited protection and preservation of indigenous knowledge.

3. This Panel Discussion seeks to share ideas on how to address some of the above challenges and provide guidance on matters related to practices, practitioners and products for incorporation in updating the Strategy.

OBJECTIVES

4. The objectives are:

(a) to discuss mechanisms to strengthen the regulation of traditional medicine practices, practitioners and products;

(b) to propose components for incorporation in updating the Traditional Medicine Strategy.

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1 WHO Regional Office for Africa, 2001 (Document AFR/RC50/9 and Resolution AFR/RC50/R3), Promoting the Role of Traditional Medicine in Health Systems: A Strategy for the African Region.
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

5. The expected outcomes are:

   (a) mechanisms for strengthening the regulation of traditional medicine practices, practitioners and products discussed;
   
   (b) concrete recommendations for incorporation in revising the Traditional Medicine Strategy made.

THE PANEL

6. Proposed participants, Chair, Moderator, Panelists and Technical presenters.

6.1 Participants
Ministers of health and key speakers.

6.2 Chair
Minister of health (Angola).

6.3 Moderator
An independent or local media.

6.4 Four panelists
1. Professor Ange ABENA (Republic of Congo), Professor, Université Marien N’Gouabi.
2. Professor Drissa DIALLO (Mali), Director, Department of Traditional Medicine, National Public Health Research Institute and Member of WHO Regional Expert Committee on Traditional Medicine (Intellectual Property Rights).
3. Mrs Julia AYODELE (Nigeria), Traditional Medicine Practitioner (Practitioners).
4. Dr Kofi BUSIA, Traditional Medicine Professional Officer, West African Health Organization (Practices, Practitioners and Products).

6.5 Two keynote speakers for the technical presentations
1. Professor Abayomi SOFOWORA (Nigeria), Former Chairman, WHO Regional Expert Committee on Traditional Medicine (Regulation of African Traditional Medicine: Practices, Practitioners and Products).
2. Mr Emmanuel SACKEY [(African Regional Intellectual Property Organization, ARPO) (Intellectual property rights and indigenous knowledge)].
# ANNEX: Provisional Programme of the Panel Discussion

**DAY 4: Thursday, 25 October 2012**

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<td>(a) Opening remarks and introduction of Presenters and Panelists by the Chairperson</td>
<td>17:00–17:05 (5 minutes)</td>
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| (b) Two key speakers for the technical presentations:  
*Presentation 1. Regulation of African Traditional Medicine Practices, Practitioners and Products* by Professor Abayomi SOFOWORA, Former Chairman, WHO Regional Expert Committee on Traditional Medicine, Nigeria | 17:05–17:25 (10 minutes each) |
| *Presentation 2. Preservation and protection of indigenous knowledge* by Mr Emmanuel SACKEY, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) |  |
| (c) Four Panelists’ remarks (5 minutes each x 4) | 17:25–17:45 (20 minutes) |
| (d) Discussion and questions/answer(s) and recommendations: Participants, presenters and panelists | 17:45–18:25 (40 minutes) |
| (e) Closing remarks by Chairperson | 18:25–18:30 (5 minutes) |