



## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION 68TH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

### Welcome Message of the Regional Director

On behalf of the WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, myself and the entire Secretariat, I welcome you to the 68<sup>th</sup>



### The 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa to Discuss Important Health Issues

The 68<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee (RC) for Africa opens today in Dakar, Senegal. This annual RC meeting brings together health ministers from the 47 Member States in the WHO African Region and is the highest WHO Governing Body on the continent. The current 68<sup>th</sup> session (RC68) will run from the 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>

Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to

his Excellency Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and to the Senegalese people, for the hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

Our continent faces a number of public health issues which challenge health security in the Region including the ongoing Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We have been able to respond to these challenges in a timely and robust manner because of the excellent collaboration of the Member States, our partners and donors. Importantly, the readiness and capacity of our staff to support response activities in any part of our continent and the leadership of our Executive Management Team are also commendable. We remain on full alert to respond to any disease outbreak in any member state.

In Africa, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is no longer an option, but an urgent requirement to the attainment of good health for all people as highlighted in the Sustainable Development Goal 3. We applaud efforts by several Member States that have taken steps to improve public finance management which is one of the critical ways to progress towards UHC.

The WHO African Region Secretariat is determined to support its Member States towards the attainment of UHC given our mandate and comparative advantage. The rapid increase in non-communicable diseases in many African countries is a worrying trend that needs urgent actions. The good news is that the underlying causes of this problem such as tobacco use, physical inactivity, poor diets and harmful use of alcohol are well known. I urge member states to take deliberate and sustained actions to address these risk factors.

At the same time, we should also keep a keen eye on communicable diseases for which we now have abundant information, medicines and technology to handle. We are however cognizant of the fact that there are many social, economic and environment determinants of health which are outside the scope of the Ministries of Health but contribute to the health of the African population. We shall therefore continue to advocate to other sectors and partners to take effective actions in their sectors and to ensure that health is integrated into all policies as these will leap frog the attainment of UHC on our continent.

During this Regional Committee, we shall present a

August 2018 at the King Fahd Palace Hotel.

RC68 is taking place at a critical moment and will discuss important issues such as the WHO African Regional Office (WHO/AFRO) Programme Budget 2020/21, the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the WHO/AFRO Transformation Agenda, sustainable financing for Universal Health Coverage (UHC), frameworks for certification of polio eradication and control of cholera among other important topics.

During the meeting, the WHO Regional Director for Africa will present a report on the work of WHO in the Region from 2017 to 2018.

Furthermore, the delegates will review the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Transformation Agenda of the World Health Organization Secretariat in the African Region: 2015–2020 and a report on the resource mobilization efforts through strengthening partnerships to better support to Member States.

A draft global strategy on health, environment and climate change and a document on ensuring sustainable financing for UHC in Africa in the midst of changing global and local economic factors will also be presented and discussed.

The Regional Director will launch the report of The State of Health in the African Region. A Roadmap for Access to medicines and vaccines and a report on the Status of implementation of the four time-bound commitments on non-communicable diseases in the African Region will also be discussed. In addition, a draft Global Action Plan on the health of refugees and migrants will be presented and discussed.

The delegates will be presented with six progress reports on utilizing eHealth solutions; the African Health Observatory; the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria; the Global Health Sector Strategy for prevention, care and treatment of viral hepatitis; the Global Health Sector Strategy on HIV/AIDS 2016–2021 and the Framework for implementing the End TB Strategy in the African Region 2016–2020

For the first time, there is a health walk on the programme dubbed “**Walk the Talk: 70 years of WHO service to the countries**” in which delegates participated on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August

progress report on the implementation of the Transformation Agenda (2015-2020) in the WHO African Region. This is a pledge I made at the beginning of my term of office intended to improve our effectiveness, responsiveness and accountability. As the report indicates, a lot has been achieved on these aspects in our regional and our country offices. Our report on the work of WHO in the African region 2017-2018 will on the other hand present our key programmatic achievements which I encourage you to read, discuss and ask for clarifications where needed.

This year, the daily Regional Committee Journal will be provided to delegates electronically only. This is one of our modest contributions to save our environment – a well-known determinant of public health. The WHO Secretariat is at your disposal for any assistance needed during this session. I wish you a successful meeting.

**Dr Matshidiso Moeti**

WHO Regional Director for Africa

## **OPENING CEREMONY - Monday, 27 August 2018**

<b>07:00-08:00</b>	Pick up of participants
<b>08:00</b>	Positioning of Ballet group and Hostesses
	Arrival and ushering of participants /main entrance Registration Wearing of RC68 scarves
<b>08:00-09:00</b>	Distribution of document folders Participants take their seats in the hall Projection of messages/ announcements on the screens Musical interlude
<b>08:00-09:00</b>	Arrival of officials / VIP entrance Registration Wearing of scarves Participants take their seats
<b>09:00-09:30</b>	Arrival – Installation of the Guest of Honour
<b>09:30-09:45</b>	<b>Group photograph</b>

2018.

In addition seven side events will take place during the RC. They are on improving Public Finance Management to advance progress towards UHC in Africa; tackling the burden of hypertension and strengthening the management of severe NCDs through public health approaches; launch of The State of Health in the African Region; and Digital Health expansion in Africa and the AFRO-ITU agreement. Other side events are on engaging African governments to strengthen national health research systems with complementary international cooperation; development and implementation of integrated and affordable assisted reproductive technologies (ART) services in the African Region; and Sahel Malaria Elimination Initiative – a high level ministerial meeting.

Finally, the delegates will discuss the Programme Budget 2020-2021: Regional Committee Consultation document. An exhibition will showcase the work of WHO and its Member States throughout the duration of the meeting.

## **COFFEE BREAK / LUNCHES**

Snacks, morning and afternoon tea/coffee and lunch will be served free of charge to participants during the working days of the Committee. Lunch for Ministers and all Heads of Delegation will be served in **Le Manguier** restaurant. Members of the delegations and secretariat staff will have their lunch in the Adriana and Green rooms that are opposite each other in the main conference (see the layout in the events app).

## **Healthy Life Expectancy Increases in the WHO African Region**



The findings of an analyses conducted by the WHO Regional Office for Africa presented in a report titled ***State of health in the WHO African Region: Where we are, where we need to go*** have shown that the healthy life

- 09:45-09:50** Introduction by the Master of Ceremonies
- 09:50-10:00** Welcome show presented by children
- Statement by Dr Pagwesese David Parirenyatwa, President of the Seventy-first World Health Assembly and Chairperson of the Sixty-seventh -session of the Regional Committee
- 10:00-10:10** Statement by Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa
- 10:10-10:30** Statement by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO
- 10:30-10:35** Film
- 10:35-11:00** Official opening of the Sixty-eighth session of the Regional Committee by the Guest of Honour
- 11:10-11:30** Cocktail
- End of the opening ceremony

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## RC68 eJOURNAL



The Secretariat of RC68 will publish a daily Electronic Journal (eJournal) which replaces the printed versions published during the previous Regional Committees. The easy-to-use eJournal is designed to improve interactions with our readers and to reach a wider readership. It offers new features such as built-in videos,

photo galleries and audio recordings. The eJournal will be distributed in the three WHO working languages namely English, French and Portuguese. The eJournal can be accessed by email on all computers, mobile phones, iPads and all types of mobile devices at any time during the Regional

expectancy in the WHO African Region increased from 50.9 years to 53.8 years between 2012 and 2015. This indicator which is a measure of life expectancy adjusted for years spent with disability ranks as the highest increase in all the six WHO regions.

The report points out that the gap in healthy life expectancy between the best and worst performing countries in the Region has reduced from 27.5 to 22 years. However, there are inequities; with healthy life expectancy being highest in countries with better economies and improvement being fastest in countries with large populations and high population density. The report however adds that, *“the levels of healthy life in the Region are still very low compared to other regions”*.

Furthermore, the analyses showed that the burden of disease in the region is now driven by communicable and non-communicable (NCD) conditions and violence/injuries. However, lower respiratory conditions, HIV/AIDS and diarrheal diseases still represent the top causes of both morbidity and mortality. Yet, levels of morbidity and mortality are reducing significantly.

Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) due to the top 10 causes of morbidity have more than halved between 2000 and 2015, driven by reductions in incidence of malaria, HIV/AIDS and diarrhoeal diseases. The crude death rate due to the top 10 causes of mortality also reduced from 87.7 to 51.3 per 100 000 population in the same period. No significant reduction was seen for NCDs.

In her foreword to the report, Dr Matshidiso Moeti the WHO Regional Director for Africa, said that *“since the year 2000, the people of Africa have benefitted from economic growth, with poverty largely in retreat. The health and well-being of people in Africa is improving, a result of investments targeting the most pressing health needs in a context of a changing social, economic, political and environmental landscape. The people of Africa currently share a vision for the future that is filled with optimism and hope”*.

The report further states that a person in the Region aged between 30 and 70 years has a 20.7% chance of dying from one of the major NCDs. The prevalence of the four major risk

Committee. Inquiries about the ejournal including suggestions for improvement should be sent to Phyllis Jiri on ([jirip@who.int](mailto:jirip@who.int)).

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## TRANSPORT OF DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE CENTRE

Buses will pick up delegates from their hotels to the King Fahd Palace, venue of the RC68, from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, according to the following schedule:

- 7.15am: Departure from all hotels to the King Fahd Hotel
- 19H30 : departure from King Fahd hotel to the hotels

### Pick-up Axes:

- Axes 1: Hotel Sargal, Hotel la Madrague, Hotel Ngor Diarama
- Axes 2: Fana Hotel, Hotel Fleur de Lys-Almadies, Lodge des Almadies, Hotel la Détente, Hotel The Palms, Hotel Yaas Almadies
- Axes 3: Hotel Terrou-Bi, Radisson Blu Hotel

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## CURRENCY

The current currency in Senegal is the WAEMU CFA franc.

- US\$ 1 = 574 F CFA
- 1 EURO = 656 FCFA

## FACILITIES AT KING FAHD HOTEL

- **Fitness room:** The hotel has a fitness room (gym). From the lift in the reception, turn left. Then cross the shopping mall until the first entrance on the left. Take the corridor on your left and find the gym on your right (second door). It is open from 16h30 to 22H00.
- **Automated Teller Machines (ATMs):** There are ATMs located at the hotel mall. They are located on the right side towards the "Le Manguier " restaurant. VISA and MASTERCARD are accepted.

factors for NCDs namely physical inactivity, tobacco consumption, harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diets are high in the Region, the analyses reported.

While there are improvements in healthy life expectancy and reductions in morbidity and mortality, the WHO Region is coming from a very low base, with current levels still lower than the rest of the world. In addition, the high burden of risk factors for NCDs continues to hamper the well-being of the population thus the NCD burden will continue to rise to a level where the improvements in healthy life expectancy becomes eroded by losses in well-being.

Dr Moeti emphasized that the report is not a country scorecard but, ***“a compass to show countries where they were in relation to different elements of health at the beginning of the SDG era, and where they need to place emphasis and resources to drive progress towards health and wellbeing aspirations”***.

The report provides a very good platform for Member States to engage with and learn from each other as they move towards sustainable and equitable health development. The report which will be launched on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018, is one of the key highlights of the 68<sup>th</sup> Regional Committee.

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## SECURITY

- Emergency police: 17
- Fire Brigade: 18
- UNDSS Senegal: Mr Pierre-Etienne Ruff, Security Advisor, Tel: +221 77 450 58 21, Email: [pierre-etienne.ruff@undss.org](mailto:pierre-etienne.ruff@undss.org)
- WHO AFRO: Mr Fofana Ibrahim, Security Advisor, Tel: +221 77 335 16 35 E-mail: [fofanai@who.int](mailto:fofanai@who.int)
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## OFFICIAL DINNER

- **Internet connection within the hotel:** Network name: KFPHotel (in the rooms) and KFP Public in the reception and other public areas; access is free.

Invited delegates will be hosted to an official

## RC68 WHO Event App

For access to regular updates and information on RC68 including programme of work, working documents, eJournal etc., please download the WHO Event application on your mobile phone or iPads through a link in an email message which has already been sent to the address you gave during your online registration. For further assistance, please contact Marc Chinombe and Nkaya Gilles in the WHO secretariat : Tel: 221 771519602

## MEETING ROOMS

The opening ceremony will take place in the main hall - the "Amphitheatre". Most of the Side Events will take place in rooms B12 and C12 behind the Amphitheatre. Some Side Events are planned in other rooms which will be communicated to delegates at the appropriate time. The daily RC68 programme will be published in the eJournal.

## CONTACTS OF HOTELS

King Fahd Palace: + 221 33 869 69 69  
 Yaas Hotel Almadies: tel: + 221 33 859 07 00  
 The Palms: + 221 33 868 05 05  
 Radisson Blu Dakar : + 221 33 869 33 07  
 Terrou Bi : + 33 839 90 39  
 Le Llodge des Almadies : + 221 33 869 03 45  
 Fana Hotel : + 221 33 820 06 06

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

1. Dr Lucile Imboua-Niava, WHO Representative, TEL: +221 77-644-95-90, e-mail: [imboual@who.int](mailto:imboual@who.int)
2. Ms Maimouna Diop , Administrator, TEL: +221 77299 17 74, e-mail: [mdiop@who.int](mailto:mdiop@who.int)
3. Mr. Odon Mushobekwa, Regional Manager of Administrative Services, e-mail: [mushobekwao@who.int](mailto:mushobekwao@who.int)
4. Ms Eniko Andrea MankampaToth , Conference and Protocol Officer, TEL: +221 77 82879 60, e-mail: [tothe@who.int](mailto:tothe@who.int)
5. Ms Marie-Paule Iribagiza Rutabuzwa, Transport and Travel Officer, TEL: +242 068957710, e-mail: [rutabuzwai@who.int](mailto:rutabuzwai@who.int)
6. Mr Francis Gamba, Transport Focal Point, TEL: +221 771519245, e-mail: [gambaf@who.int](mailto:gambaf@who.int)
7. Mr. Tresor Ampa, Hosting & Reception Focal Point, TEL : +221 773351728, e-mail : [ampat@who.int](mailto:ampat@who.int)
8. Mr Ibrahima Fofana - Regional Security Advisor,

## Walking the Talk to commemorate WHO's 70th Anniversary: More than 2000 People Trek Eight kilometers to Advocate for prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases

More than eight hundred people from all walks of life took part in an 8km Health walk to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the World Health



*Hundreds of people participated in the walk that covered 8kms.*

Organization. The event was held in Dakar, Senegal on Sunday 26 August on the eve of the WHO Regional Committee, which is the annual meeting of Ministers of Health from the WHO African Region.

Organised by the Ministry of Health and Social Action of Senegal and the World Health Organization, the aim of the Health Walk was threefold: (1) To raise awareness and profile of the work and goals of WHO and the Senegalese Minister of Health and Social Action (2) To engage Regional Committee delegates, and residents of Dakar in a celebration of WHO's 70th birthday. (3) To participate in the global movement to promote health and particularly physical activity as part of a healthy sustainable future.

The event was open to people of all ages and it attracted Ministers of Health from other African

TEL: +221 xxxx e-mail: [fofanai@who.int](mailto:fofanai@who.int)  
9. Dr. Roland R. E. Rizet, Regional Medical Officer,  
e-mail: [rizetro@who.int](mailto:rizetro@who.int)

#### INTERNET IN THE MEETING ROOM

User Name: RC68  
no password is required

#### EXHIBITION

As in previous Regional Committee sessions, there is an exhibition on the work of WHO and Member States in the African region. The exhibition is mounted in room A0 behind the plenary hall. This year's exhibition focuses on WHO's 70th anniversary (successes and challenges), the Regional Office's Transformation Agenda and Universal Health Coverage. Delegates are invited to visit the exhibition hall.



countries, delegates of the Regional Committee, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, staff of the Ministry of Health officers and personnel of the various security agencies.



The Senegalese Minister of Health and Social Action, Mr Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr (in white), the WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (on his right), the WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti (holding a water bottle) and the WHO Representative in Senegal Dr Lucile Marie Inboua Niava (on her left) leading the walk through Dakar City yesterday.

[Read More](#)

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#### MEDICAL CONTACTS

1. Hôpital Principal De Dakar : 338395050
2. Samu National : 1515 - 338698252
3. Poison Centre : 818001515

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How would you rate the information in this issue of the Journal publication?

- Excellent  Good  Satisfactory  Poor

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