

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME: OPENING CEREMONY
Monday 30th August 2010, CEMAC, Malabo

- 09:30 Arrival of delegates and officials
- 10:30 Arrival of His Excellency Mr Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- 10:50 National Anthem of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- 10:55 Welcome Address by the Mayor of Malabo
- 11:00 Address by the Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Mr. Francisco Pascual Obama Asue
- 11:10 Address by the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Luis Gomes Sambo
- 11:25 Address by the Professor Alpha Omar Konaré, former Head of State of Mali and former Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- 11:55 Address by the WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan
- 12:25 Official opening of the 60th Session of the Regional Committee by the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, His Excellency, Mr Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
- National Anthem of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- Group photo
- End of the opening ceremony



Message of the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Luis Sambo
on the occasion of the Eighth African Traditional Medicine Day, 31st August 2010

Tomorrow, 31st August 2010 is a milestone in traditional medicine in Africa as we celebrate the Eighth African Traditional Medicine Day. This annual event also coincides with the commemoration of ten years since the adoption, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, of the Regional Strategy on Promoting the Role of Traditional Medicine in Health Systems. Also today, we commemorate the unprecedented Declaration, by Heads of State and Government of countries of Africa that the period 2001-2010 be recognized as the Decade of African Traditional Medicine.

The theme for the commemoration - *Decade of African Traditional Medicine: The progress so Far* - is of crucial importance in drawing attention to the progress made towards integrating traditional medicine in health systems.

As we approach the end of the decade, it is gratifying to note that Member States of the African Region have made progress in implementing the Regional Strategy on Traditional Medicine. More than half of the Member States have formulated national policies and regulatory frameworks to ensure the efficacy, safety and quality of traditional medicines and implemented national programmes to institutionalize traditional medicine.

Research has been intensified towards building scientific evidence. The focus of traditional medicine research has been on medicinal plants particularly for the treatment of malaria, opportunistic infections of people living with HIV/AIDS, diabetes, hypertension and sickle-cell disease.

Some Member States are developing national herbal pharmacopoeias to organize scientific information on useful medicinal plants found to be efficacious in the management of certain ailments. Others have produced traditional medicines and registered them with national medicines regulatory authorities. In addition, a number of countries have incorporated traditional medicine in health sciences training curricula.

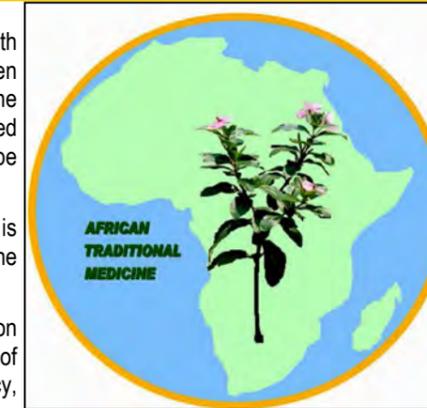
Even so, for further progress to be made, much more needs to be done in terms of the strengthening of research and institutional capacities and the integration of best practices. Regulations should be better enforced to enhance the safety, quality and efficacy of traditional medicines and practices.

Traditional medicine research and development in the African Region should be further promoted and supported. Emphasis should be placed on further exploitation of the rich and diverse medicinal plant resources in Africa which can contribute to the discovery and development of new medicines. At the same time, traditional medicine knowledge should be preserved and protected. The WHO Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, adopted by the Sixty-first World Health Assembly in 2008, should provide a relevant framework for addressing this crucial issue.

To this end, I urge governments, the private sector, civil society, nongovernmental organizations, partners and other stakeholders to increase their contributions to African Traditional Medicine particularly in the area of research to enable it to play its full role in health.

For its part, WHO remains committed to providing support to countries and promoting the development of Traditional Medicine in the African Region.

I wish you all a successful celebration.



PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK – DAY 1: MONDAY 30th AUGUST 2010

- 09:00-12:30 **Agenda item 1** Opening ceremony
- 12:30-14:00 **Lunch break** **Agenda item 2:** Constitution of the Subcommittee on Nominations
- 14:00-14:05 **Opening remarks** Chairman, Fifty-ninth session of the Regional Committee
- 14:05-14:30 **Agenda item 3** Elections of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs
- Agenda item 4** Adoption of the Agenda (Document AFR/RC60/1)
- Agenda item 5** Appointment of members of the Subcommittee on Credentials
- 14:30-15:15 **Agenda item 6** Address by the WHO Director-General
- Presentation on The Work of WHO in the African Region 2008-2009: Biennial report of the Regional Director (Document AFR/RC60/2)
- 15:15-15:45 **Tea break**
- 15:45-17:00 **Agenda item 6 (cont'd)** Discussion on The Work of WHO in the African Region 2008-2009: Biennial report of the Regional Director (Document AFR/RC60/2)
- Statement by the Regional Director of UNAIDS on the work of Harmonization for Health in Africa (HHA)
- 17:00 **End of session**
- 18:00 **Reception offered by the World Health Organization**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK DAY 2:
Tuesday, 31 August 2010

- 09:00–09:15 **Agenda item 5 (cont'd)** Report of the Subcommittee on Credentials
- 09:15–09:30 **Agenda item 7** Report of the Programme Subcommittee (Document AFR/RC60/15)
- 09:30–10:30 **Agenda item 7.1** A strategy for addressing the key determinants of health in the African Region (Document AFR/RC60/3)
- 10:30–11:00 **Tea break**
- 11:00–12:00 **Agenda item 7.2** Reduction of the harmful use of alcohol: A strategy for the WHO African Region (Document AFR/RC60/4)
- 12:00–12:30 **Agenda item 7.8** Current status of routine immunization and polio eradication in the African Region: Challenges and recommendations (Document AFR/RC60/14)
- Statement by the Regional Director, UNICEF/WCARO
- 12:30–14:00 **Lunch break**
- 14:00–14:45 **Agenda item 7.3** eHealth solutions in the African Region: The current context and perspectives (Document AFR/RC60/5)



Whole day exhibition on the occasion of the Traditional Medicine Day

14:45-15:45	Item 7.4	Cancer of the cervix in the African Region: Current situation and way forward (Document AFR/RC60/6)
15:45-16:15	Tea Break	
16:15-17:15	Item 7.5	Health Systems Strengthening: Improving District health service delivery, and community ownership and participation (Document AFR/RC60/7)
17:15	End of day session	
18:00		Reception offered by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea

RC60: GUIDE AND IMPORTANT CONTACTS

CONTACT NUMBERS OF UN-APPROVED PHYSICIANS

- Dr Roland Rizet, WHO Regional staff physician, Tel.: 551 139 335 (Dispensary available on the premises of the Parliament Palace)
- Dr Manuel Nguema Ntutumu, tel.: 222 278 701
- Dr Pascual Ndjomo Mbo, tel.: 222 502 809
- Dr Siantago Monte Nguba, tel.: 222 288 989

WHO CONTACT PERSONS

- Dr Gaye Abou Beckr, Representative, tel.: 222 216 854
- Mrs. Rebecca Gil, Administrative Officer, tel.: 222 785 741
- Mr. Santime Kabeya, Administrative Officer, tel.: 222 658 631
- Mr. Pierre Lessimi, Administrative Services Officer, tel.: 222 653 304
- Mrs. Eniko Toth, Conference and Protocol Officer, tel.: 222 658 377
- Mr. C. Boakye, Communications Officer, tel.: 551 139 546
- Mr. S. Ajibola, Press Officer, tel.: 222 658 696
- Mr. Abdoulaye Doumbia, Security Officer, tel.: 222 658 651
- Ms Alexandra Lebas, Travel Officer, tel.: 551 139 312
- Mrs Marie-Paule Kaboré, Exhibition, Tel.: 222 658 608
- Dr Rui Gama Vaz, Journal Coordinator, Tel.: 551 113 94 56

BANKING

Banking services and a foreign exchange bureau are available at the exhibition area. The bank will be open on Tuesday 31st August, from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. The requirements for changing money are as follows:

- Cash: a photocopy of the passport is required.
- Travelers cheques: a photocopy of the passport and a copy of the transaction receipt.

BADGES

Badges will be produced only at the CEMAC conference centre (please follow instructions on walls). Please make sure you wear your badges on the premises of the conference centre.

RC60 EXHIBITION

The stands of the exhibition, located on ground -2, near the tea-break venue, will be open throughout the duration of the meeting.

The following items will be on display: publications, other medical literature, posters etc. from WHO headquarters, regional and country levels.

The Association of the Traditional Health Practitioners of Equatorial Guinea will be holding a Traditional Medicine Exhibition during RC60.



EVENTS AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

Monday, 30 August:

- Reception offered by the World Health Organization and awards distribution to WHO staff - 18:00

Tuesday, 31 August:

- Traditional Medicine Exhibition – Conference centre - All day
- Reception offered by the Government of Guinea Equatorial - 18:00

Thursday, 2 September:

- GAVI special session: "Update on new and revised GAVI policy development"

TRAVEL

A travel desk available at the entrance of the conference centre will assist delegations with reconfirmation of their return flights. You are kindly requested to fill in the form that is in your folder and send it back to the Secretariat of the meeting for reconfirmation of your trip.



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30th August 2010

WELCOME MESSAGE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Heads and members of Delegations,

On behalf of Dr Margaret Chan, the Director-General of WHO, I have the pleasure to welcome all the Ministers, distinguished guests and participants, to the 60th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, here in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to His Excellency President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the Government and people of Equatorial Guinea for their generous hospitality and commitment in providing the best facilities to this forum that brings together African Member States, WHO Secretariat and health development partners to discuss and deliberate about public health in Africa.

This meeting occurs in the very special context of both challenges and opportunities for our Region. We are facing an economic crisis but health is also being recognized as essential to socio-economic development, peace and stability. The focus of our discussions is intrinsically linked with the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, among other pertinent issues.

This 60th Session of the WHO Regional Committee is being convened to provide inputs to the critical issues related to health priorities and human development in this century. The African people who suffer the most from the impact of poverty, humanitarian catastrophes, epidemics and burden of diseases, are looking for solutions to their public health problems.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the efforts of communities, Governments and health development partners in improving health outcomes in Africa, towards health-related Millennium Development Goals.

You will receive the daily Regional Committee *Journal* that will give an overview of proceedings of the different sessions of this meeting. It will also provide the opinion of distinguished delegates on topics discussed and offer useful information for your stay in Malabo.

The WHO Secretariat is entirely at your disposal. I wish you a very successful meeting.

Dr Luis G. Sambo
Regional Director

CONTENTS

	Page
Provisional Programme: Opening Ceremony	2
Provisional Programme of Work – Day 1	2
African Traditional Medicine Day	3
Provisional Programme of Work - Day 2	3
RC60: Guide and important contacts	4

60TH SESSION OF REGIONAL COMMITTEE OPENS TODAY IN MALABO



The 60th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa opens today at the CEMAC Parliament Palace in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The Regional Committee, is composed of Ministers of Health of the 46 Member States of the WHO African Region.

From 30th August to 3rd September 2010, Delegates will discuss on a range of health issues including: The work of WHO in the African Region 2008-2009: biennial report of the WHO Regional Director; a strategy for addressing the key determinants of health in the African Region; reduction of the harmful use of alcohol; eHealth solutions; cancer of the cervix in the African Region; Health systems strengthening: Improving district health service delivery, and community ownership and participation; Sickle-cell disease: a strategy for the WHO African Region; Multi-drug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant TB.

The Regional Committee will also discuss routine immunization and polio eradication; the global financial crisis: implications for the health sector in the African Region; recurring epidemics and emergency preparedness and response; the framework document for the African Public Health Emergency Fund, among others.

Participants will also provide inputs to the WHO Programme Budget 2012-2013; the future of financing for WHO; the correlation between the work of the Regional Committee, the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly. Other issues on the agenda are: the WHO internal and external audit reports; the current situation of WHO staff in the African Region and the report of the Regional Task Force on the prevention and control of substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/ counterfeit medical products in the WHO African Region.

Delegates will also have the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion on Universal access to Emergency Obstetric and Newborn care.