

Resolution AFRO 1.1
AFRO

Subject: Equitable Access

Sponsors: Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria

Signatories: Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Chad, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Ghana

Recognizing the need for developing telecommunication infrastructure to support health services,

Recognizing the urgent need for expanding public health and transportation infrastructure within and among African nation-states,

Noting the concentration of poverty within rural regions with limited infrastructure and limited means to develop that infrastructure,

Prioritizing the potential of an integrated public health system with shared data on health measures,

Regretting the presence of African political conflicts which precipitate population displacement, regional security issues, and poor allocation of nation-state resources,

Considering African entrepreneurship to be the most efficient and ideal means for sustainable healthcare innovations focused on the immediate needs for population health in Africa;

The World Health Assembly,

1. Encourages the use of SMS messaging systems to provide healthcare-related notifications, track data collection, monitor trends in health conditions/diseases, and map epidemiological trends of these factors,
 - a. Invites telephone companies to partner with AFRO countries to enhance SMS messaging transmission,
 - b. Considers the application of SMS notifications for drug prescription scheduling and dosages,
 - c. Promotes use of this information in electronic health records,
 - d. Approves the use of this information for long-term surveillance of health conditions/diseases,
 - e. Desires the construction of telephone apps for the purpose of facilitating healthcare communication;
2. Emphasizes the critical need for medicinal product integrity, including over-the-counter and prescription drugs,
 - a. Calls upon the necessity of honest drug labelling and regulation of drug purity,
 - i. Declares the implementation of regulatory bodies to ensure these needs,
 - b. Accepts the idea for a uniform drug pricing system,

- c. Proclaims that consumer education about drug availability and purpose should be integrated in the regulatory drug system;
3. Considers the need for medications and vaccines that maintain in a variety of climate conditions conditions for purposes of effective transportation and distribution,
 - a. Draws the attention to develop sustainable and accessible vaccine cold chains and drug refrigeration systems,
 - i. Serves drugs such as amoxicillin, erythromycin, insulin, typhoid pills,
 - b. Supplicates research done in the area of non-perishable vaccines and medications to promote their distribution to rural areas and between countries,
 - c. Desires development of efficient transport and distribution of vaccines to rural areas and in-need areas,
 - d. Endorses the construction of medication and vaccine distribution and storage facilities in countries able to sustain such projects,
 - e. Calls for development of novel or improved energy resources, including renewable energy systems, and utilization of new informative distribution technologies, such as drones, to keep these medications viable;
4. Endorses the supplemental training of local medical professionals in order to better manage the double burden of communicable and non-communicable disease to improve health outcomes,
 - a. Designates healthcare workers to identify proper methods of managing infectious diseases such as HPV, HIV/AIDS, malaria, typhoid, and other prevalent infectious diseases in the region ,
 - b. Calls upon healthcare workers to advocate for healthier lifestyles of patients, especially those that increase risk of developing chronic diseases such as to diabetes, cancer, and heart disease;
 - c. Calls upon the need for financial and logistical support in educating community health workers both in villages and refugee camps; specifically in administering vaccines, overseeing childbirth, and distributing health care literacy specific to their respective communities;
5. Urges development of maternal and prenatal health strategies to reduce maternal and infant mortality and lay a foundation for empowerment of women in communities,
 - a. Invites the subsidization of prenatal vitamins by pharmaceutical companies for pregnant women and children and distribution of oral rehydration solution packets to pregnant women and children,
 - b. Encourages readily available and culturally-sensitive family planning clinics;
6. Acknowledges the inclusivity of African languages and culture into the development of medical languages and products in the interest of health literacy,
 - a. Expresses its hope for the translation of packages and descriptions of drugs into appropriate languages;
 - b. Allow for addition of pictographs for those who are not only health illiterate, but illiterate in general
7. Condemns the alienation of populations with diverse cultural and spiritual beliefs in order to promote inclusivity in accessible health care services,

- a. Promotes the inclusion of local religious and spiritual leaders and figures in public health interventions,
 - i. Implores religious and spiritual centers to promote their spaces as health facilities, distribution centers, and emergency shelters as needed;
8. Deplores the fact that many countries import natural resources from Africa knowing that said resources are extracted through authoritarian force or inadequate labor conditions which deeply burden African livelihood and health,
 - a. Prioritizes resource wealth remaining in nation-states to which it belongs and is better utilized;
9. Emphasizes the growth potential of the recent African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement which creates a more cohesive and accessible intra-African market by liberalizing African trade and expanding economic facilities,
 - a. Draws attention to inefficiencies, such as tariffs and variable customs laws across countries, associated with a fragmented continental economy,
 - b. Acknowledges the benefits of trade liberalization,
 - i. Affirms potential rewards associated with creating a Continental Customs Union;
10. Suggests governments further reduce barriers to trade and support exchange of ideas and people, creating an atmosphere promoting diffusion of innovations, technology, and research, particularly in healthcare,
 - a. Emphasizing regional measures allowing free business and education movement;
11. Encourages nations to utilize microcredit, particularly for impoverished and displaced populations, as a socially innovative means to facilitate investment and economic growth, especially in rural African regions,
 - a. Acknowledging the fundamental role of women in social change and family planning,
 - i. Prioritizing the improvement of health outcomes immediately;
 - b. Supporting the advancement of educational opportunities for women and girls as a foundational element of female empowerment and effective family planning;
12. Emphasizes the development of public health infrastructure that is sustainable after initial humanitarian aid that addresses immediate health concerns,
 - a. Increases means of data collection that monitors health outcomes and effectiveness of interventions,
 - i. Fosters ability to conduct monitoring and evaluation efforts in regards to cost-effectiveness of public health infrastructure and interventions;
 - b. Allows member states to amend policy and interventions on a five-year basis at their discretion with input from community health providers and their patients;
13. Recommends innovative means of incentivizing healthcare professionals to remain in African countries,
 - a. Further recommends health profession scholarships or loan forgiveness programs with binding commitments to serve African populations;
14. Designates resources to combat the issue of “brain drain” in African regions
 - a. Encourages providing educational incentives such as medical school and residency scholarships to its own citizens to pursue needed specialities in health professions such as maternal and child care within their own country;

15. Endorses the advancement of health literacy and nutritional education through established informational initiatives such as pamphlet campaigns encompassing all languages across this region;