

Ministerial Resolutions on Africa Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), Abuja 2016

Issued at the Ministerial Roundtable Discussions during the 6th

**AFENET Scientific Conference
and Special Ministerial Session**

**8th and 9th August, 2016
Abuja, Nigeria**

Preamble

African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) was established in 2005 as a networking alliance of Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs (FELTPs), and other applied epidemiology training programs in Africa. AFENET is dedicated to partnering with African Ministries of Health in building strong, effective, and sustainable programs with capacity to improve public health systems.

AFENET currently coordinates FELTPs in 31 African countries namely: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

This year's AFENET conference showcases the journey and achievements so far; and builds momentum for the road ahead, through introspection, retrospection and broad range of discussions, including the Ministerial Roundtable Discussions.

The Ministerial Round-table Discussion was first convened in Tanzania in December 2011, which gave birth to the 'Dar-es-Salaam Agenda for Action' and a supporting plan of action to implement the Resolutions. The Resolutions

from Dar-es-Salaam have continued to provide policy direction and technical guidance for program implementation. It equally provides the Ministers of Health in Africa a tool for monitoring the progress of AFENET and FELTPs in Africa.

Resolutions

We, the undersigned Ministers and representatives, applaud AFENET and its partners for the momentous contribution to capacity building and response to epidemics in the region.

Recalling the achievements of AFENET and partners in building the much needed capacity for disease detection, surveillance, prevention and contribution to outbreak response;

Recognizing the need for immediate action to further make our region, and by extension the global community safer and ready to respond to epidemics and disasters;

Acknowledging that as government officials we have a responsibility to guarantee health of Africans, and contribute to global health plans and commitments;

Building on existing successes of AFENET in the region;

We resolve as follows:

A. Dar-es-Salaam Agenda for Action:

1. The Ministers noted that, the Resolutions of the Dar-es-Salaam Agenda for Action of December 2011 were very useful in stimulating the growth and development of Field Epidemiology and its networking in Africa; progress should continue to be made in its implementation.
2. The Ministers noted that there was a 5-year interval between the Dar-es-Salaam and Abuja meetings. There is need to have more regular meetings, biennially and/or during any feasible occasion that might bring Honorable Ministers together e.g. as a side meeting of AU, WHO, AU-IBAR or other

similar meetings. AFENET is mandated to explore these options as well as video conferencing to bridge the gap.

3. The Ministers endorsed the Ministerial Round-table Discussion as a standing **"Ministerial Forum"** for subsequent AFENET Conferences.
4. The Ministers emphasized the need for AFENET to collaborate with the African Union, WHO, US-CDC, OIE, FAO and other stakeholders in these undertakings.

B. Scale up of FELTP as a Strategy for HRH Development to cover the entire continent

1. The Ministers noted that from December 2011 to date, the number of countries that adopted FELTP has increased from 10 to 26 countries out of the fifty four (54). The Ministers therefore mandated AFENET to scale up the establishment of FELTPs in each country or at least a country should be affiliated to an existing program in a neighbouring country or region.
2. All countries should develop clear Career Pathways for their graduates and also create enabling environments for improved work force retention especially in the public sector.

C. Funding of AFENET and FELTPS

1. Ministers noted that AFENET retains overhead from the funds received from US-CDC and has endorsed this to continue in order to maintain the functions of the network.
2. The Ministers also noted with concern that between 90% – 95% of FELTP funds come from US-CDC. Thus, recommended the development of sustainable and innovative in-country funding mechanisms to support both FELTPs and AFENET.
3. Host governments are encouraged to dialogue with their legislators for additional financing backed by appropriate legislative instruments.

Continental Rapid Response Corps

1. The Honorable Ministers endorsed the idea of creating this standing workforce in principle, and mandated AFENET to develop the relevant details and advocacy plan to achieve it.
2. AFENET to develop the next 5-year plan of action which will serve as a guide for the program and also as an advocacy tool.

Role of African CDC and its RCDCs

1. The Ministers noted that the African Centers for Disease Control (A-CDC) has already taken off with the appointment of an Executive Director, assessment and endorsement of 5 Regional Coordinating Centers (RCCs) for effective coordination.
2. The Ministers observed with appreciation the establishment of the West African Regional Coordinating Centre (WA-RCC) which is part of the 5 regional RCCs under the African-CDC. The West African-RCC has reached an advanced stage that can serve as a model for the establishment and scale up of other RCCs.
3. The Ministers also noted with appreciation, the takeoff activities which include inauguration of the Board of Directors and the signing of an MOU between ECOWAS and the Government of Nigeria, commencement of the establishment of the regional rapid response team (RRT), setting up of the Regional Reference Laboratory and the networking of disease surveillance systems.

Monitoring the Implementation of Ministerial Resolutions

1. Having established a Ministerial Session as part of routine AFENET Coordination Mechanisms, the Honorable Ministers mandated AFENET to develop a detailed monitoring mechanism through the use of score cards on each of its resolutions to ensure effective implementation and accountability.


Signed in Abuja, August 9, 2016



Hon. Prof. Isaac Folorunso Adewole
Minister of Health
Federal Republic of Nigeria


Hon. Chief Audu I. Ogbeh

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Federal Republic of Nigeria



Hon. Dr Jane Ruth Aceng

Minister of Health
Republic of Uganda

For 

Hon. Pr. Moustafa Mijiyawa,

Ministre

Ministere de la Sante et de la Protection Sociale

Republique Togolaise



Hon. Aldrin Musiiwa

Deputy Minister of Health

Republic of Zimbabwe



Hon. Madam Madina Rahman

Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation

Republic of Sierra Leone


.....
Hon. Kesetebirhan Admasu (Dr.)

Minister of Health

Ministry of Health, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia


.....
Hon. Alex Segbefia

Minister,

Ministry of Health, Ghana


.....
Hon. Dr. Peter Kumpalume

Minister of Health,

Ministry of Health, Republic of Malawi


.....
Hon. Ummu Ally Mwalimu

Minister,

Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children

The United Republic Tanzania


.....
Mr Thomas Nagbe

Representative of Minister

Ministry of Health, Liberia


.....
Hon. Dr. Cleopa Mailu

Cabinet Secretary

Ministry of Health, Republic of Kenya

P.O. 

Hon. Dr. Raymonde Goudou Coffie

Minister,

Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, Cote d'Ivoire


Hon. Dr. Ahmed Wahaballah

Minister of Health,

Federal Ministry of Health, Republic of Sudan


Hon. Smaila Ouedraogo



Minister of Health

Ministry of Health, Burkina Faso


 **Hon. Dr. Riek G. Gokok,**

Minister of Health

Ministry of Health, Republic of South Sudan


P.O.  **Hon. Dr. Josiane Nijimbere,** Minister Assistant,

Minister

Ministry of Public Health and Fight against AIDS, Republic of Burundi


Hon. Andre Mama Fouda

Minister

Ministry of Public Health, Republic of Cameroon



.....

Hon. Dr. Luis Gomes Sambo

Minister of Health

Ministry of Health, Republic of Angola



.....

Hon. Dr. Domingos Malú

Minister

Ministry of Health,

Republic of Guinea-Bissau

Attendance:

WAHO

US-CDC

ECOWAS

TEPHINET

EOWAS-RCDC