

**MEETING OF MINISTERS OF HEALTH OF
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES OF THE AFRICAN REGION
PRAIA, 19 MARCH 2009**

CAPE VERDE DECLARATION

Ministers of Health of Small Island Developing States of the African Region:

1. Considering the Seychelles Declaration adopted by the First Meeting of Ministers of Health of Small Island Developing States of the African Region, held in Mahé on 24 October 2006.
2. Considering the Ouagadougou Declaration on Primary Health Care and Health Systems in Africa: achieving better health in Africa in the new Millennium, signed in Ouagadougou on 30 April 2008.
3. Considering the Algiers Declaration on Research for Health and the Bamako call to Action adopted in June 2008 and November 2008 respectively.
4. Considering the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment adopted in August 2008.
5. Noting with concern the current global financial crisis and the risks it poses to health budgets and the health protection of the most disadvantaged segments of the population.
6. Concerned about climate change and its potentially impact on the means of existence and the health of the populations of Developing Small Island States.

We, Ministers of Health of Small Island Developing States of the African Region, having evaluated the implementation of the Seychelles Declaration,

7. Request the host country of this meeting to coordinate the Group of Small Island Developing States of the African Region until its next meeting.
8. Commit ourselves to designate in each of our countries a focal person to coordinate monitoring of the implementation of activities identified.
9. Commit ourselves also to identify partners to support our efforts to implement the decisions taken.
10. Further commit ourselves:
 - To set up mechanisms for documenting and sharing best practices by using modern communication technologies including the creation of a website and drawing upon the specific expertise existing in each country.
 - To develop plans of action for implementation of decisions including measures recommended in the Seychelles Declaration that have yet to be implemented or are only partially implemented.
 - To set up a mechanism for capacity building in the evaluation and/or strengthening of medicine policies.

- To set up a mechanism for prohibiting advertising on alcohol and tobacco and for sponsorship of State activities by industries concerned.
- To develop exchange of information and experience with the Small Island Developing States of WPRO and PAHO.

11. To select the following areas of cooperation by country:

Cape Verde

- Capacity building in health promotion.
- Study tour to Mauritius for sharing of experience in health financing, health information systems, rational use of medicines, and access to essential medicines and medical tourism.
- Exchange of information on elimination of malaria.
- Disaster preparedness and response.

Comoros

- Information exchange and monitoring in the areas of epidemics and health information system strengthening.
- Collaboration in malaria eradication.
- Exchange and sharing of information on best practices in HIV/AIDS epidemic management.

Mauritius

- Collaboration in exchange of information on strategic plans, legislation and development policies.
- Collaboration in disease surveillance.
- Human resource capacity building, basic training and specialization.
- Establishment of databases on communicable diseases and noncommunicable diseases.
- Collaboration in the specific area of nephrology.
- Collaboration in research for health.

Sao Tome and Principe

- Exchange of experience especially with Mauritius in malaria elimination.
- Training of doctors and other high-level health personnel.
- Training in national health accounts.
- Collaboration with Seychelles and Mauritius in epidemiological surveillance of noncommunicable diseases.

- Collaboration with Seychelles and Cape Verde in management of cases of communicable diseases and noncommunicable diseases.
- Exchange of experience regarding response to brain drain.

Seychelles

- Monitoring and evaluation of health programmes.
 - Health workforce training and capacity building.
 - Collaboration in the management of mental health issues.
 - Collaboration in prevention and control of substance abuse among the youth.
 - Collaboration in best practices in gerontology.
 - Exchange of experience in national health accounts and health care financing.
12. Express our thankfulness to WHO for its initiative to establish a forum enabling Small Island Developing States to share their experiences and analyze their specificity to be able to defend it better at the international level.
 13. Request WHO to continue to coordinate support for the implementation of the agreed actions by involving other partners such as UNAIDS and UNICEF that have already expressed interest in the issues specific to Small Island Developing States.