

Dr Luis Sambo re-nominated as WHO Regional Director for Africa

Incumbent WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Luis Gomes Sambo, has been re-nominated to steer the affairs of WHO in the African Region for another five years.

Dr Sambo's nomination took place during the just-concluded fifty-ninth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa which took place from 31 August to 4 September in Kigali, Rwanda.

The Regional Director's nomination will be submitted for appointment to the WHO Executive Board scheduled for January 2010 in Geneva.

Following his nomination, Dr Sambo expressed his gratitude to the president of his country, Angola, for the invaluable support that contributed to the achievement of significant results during his first term. He thanked the ministers of health and Member States of the African Region, international health partners, WHO Director General Dr Margaret Chan, and the staff of WHO in the African Region for their support.

The Regional Director renewed his commitment to improve the health status of the people of the Region and reiterated that he would continue to reinforce partnerships for health in Africa and serve Africa with the support of all Member States.



Dr Sambo, who is fluent in English, French and Portuguese is a public health expert with broad experience in health policy and public health administration. He holds a medical degree from the University of Angola and the University of Lisbon, and qualified as a public health specialist at the College of Post-Graduate Medical Studies of the University of Angola.

His more than 30 years of professional experience in the field of public health include 20 at WHO which he joined in 1989 as Chief of the Inter-country strategic support team in Harare, Zimbabwe. In this position, he was responsible for the technical coordination of WHO support to countries of Southern Africa.

He later served as WHO Representative in Guinea-Bissau (1990-1994), Regional Adviser for coordinating the Health-For-All Strategy (1994-1995), Director of the Division of Health Systems and Services Development (1996-1998) and as Director of Programme Management (1998-2004)

Dr Sambo was first nominated for the post of Regional Director on 2 September 2004 by the fifty-fourth session of the Regional Committee which was held in Brazzaville. He was formally appointed to the post on 18 January 2005 by the 115th session of the WHO Executive Board, and began his first term on 1 February 2005.

Before joining WHO, Dr Sambo served his native Angola in various capacities as Vice-Minister of Health, Director of Health Services in the province of Cabinda, and as Director of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Health in Luanda.

Dr Sambo, who is the sixth Director of the WHO African Region, begins his second term on 1 February 2010. His predecessors were Dr Francois Daubenton from the Netherlands, Dr F. J. Cambounac from Portugal, Dr Alfred Quenum from Benin, Dr G. Monekosso from Cameroon and Dr Ebrahim Samba from The Gambia.

8 WHO/AFRO Staff Get Awards for their "Outstanding Contributions" to the Work of the Organization



Mr. Bernard Mokono

Mr Boniface Kangalikya Lwenya

Mrs. Doris Akueley Durao

Mrs Aminata-Sakho Kelly

Dr Akram Ali Elton

Dr Deo Nshimirimana

Mr Ludovic Mabilia

Eight members of staff of WHO in the African Region have received the Regional Director's award for their outstanding contribution to the work of WHO in 2008.

The awards were presented to the recipients by WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, at a ceremony held on the sidelines of the fifty-ninth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa held from 31 August to 4 September in Kigali, Rwanda.

Two of the recipients received awards in the Outstanding Manager category while the other six bagged awards in the Outstanding Staff category.

Outstanding Manager Awards

Recipients of these awards were Dr Deo Nshimirimana, Immunization and Vaccine Development (IVD) Programme Team Leader at the Regional Office, and Dr Akram Ali Elton, HIV/AIDS Team Leader in the WHO Country Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dr Nshimirimana's award aims at recognizing his "exemplary leadership qualities in managing the IVD Programme, and his remarkable contribution to the progress made in the fight against polio as well as in the area of routine immunization activities in the WHO African Region." It also recognizes Dr Nshimirimana's "ability to prioritize, organize and coordinate activities, promote teamwork to ensure effective working relationships and identify and resolve significant implementation problems."

Dr Elton was recognized for his "good leadership and management abilities as HIV/Team Leader, and his excellent relationship with colleagues and partners; his excellent communication skills and the fact that he is seen as a role model to his team and the staff members of the WHO Country Office in Ethiopia in general."

Outstanding Staff Awards

Recipients of the Outstanding Staff Award include Mrs Doris Akueley Durao, Administrative Assistant in the Regional Director's Office.

She was recognized for her "excellent capacity for work, extreme dedication, high commitment with the work of the Organization and very good interpersonal relationships."

A Housing Clerk at the Regional Office, Mr. Bernard Mokono, received the award for his "excellent contribution to the work of the Administrative Services Unit at the Regional Office, in particular his responsiveness and commitment at work."

Mr Ludovic Mabilia, Human Resources Assistant at the Regional Office also received the Outstanding Staff Award for his "excellent contribution to the work of the Human Resources Management Unit, including in the context of the

Global Management System...positive attitude and commitment at work, as well as his excellent Information Technology and inter-personal skills, and good relationships with colleagues and staff in general."

Mr Boniface Kangalikya Lwenya, Office Messenger in the WHO Country Office in Nairobi, Kenya, received the Outstanding Staff Award for his "strong commitment and excellent contribution to the work of the Country Office... his willingness to always ensure that the support required from him is effectively provided... and his good communication and inter-personal skills with colleagues, consultants and visitors."

The Outstanding Staff Award also went to Mrs Aminata-Sakho Kelly, the Health Economist in the WHO Country Office in Nouakchott, Mauritania. She was recognized for her "excellent contribution to the implementation of the WHO programme of cooperation with the country, her leadership role within the context of the UNDAF in Mauritania...and her excellent contribution in the area of Essential Drugs and Medicines, as well as her team spirit."

Mr Malang Coly, the Disease Prevention and Control Officer in the WHO Country Office in Dakar, Senegal, was the sixth recipient of the Outstanding Staff Award.

The citation accompanying his award reads: "This award aims at recognizing Mr Coly's excellent contribution to the work of the WHO Country Office in Senegal, including in the context of the development of the National Health Development I Plan, the progress made in the surveillance of communicable and non-communicable diseases and in the fight against the cholera epidemics and NOMA. It also recognizes Mr Coly's professional attitude at work and his excellent relationships with colleagues and partners."

About the Awards

The awards and recognition programme was established by the Regional Director in 2006 to recognize and reward staff members who have excelled in providing services and contributed to making a difference in the work of the Organization.. The programme includes all categories of staff at all levels and in all duty stations of the African Region.

The awards should become catalysts for inspiring others to strive for excellence and to emulate the performance of those being recognized. The ultimate goal of the awards and recognition programme is to contribute to creating an organizational culture that values the most important resource, its human capital, and that recognizes the values and institutional principles which are based on excellence. Through innovative ways of working, recognition of the value of our human resources and a positive organizational culture, WHO staff can work better as a cohesive team that responds to the expectations' of governments and people in the African Region.





Fifty-ninth session of the Regional Committee Ends, Adopts Resolutions

The fifty-ninth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa ended on Friday 4 September in Kigali, Rwanda, after adopting resolutions aimed at scaling up action in areas that are key to improving the health situation in the Region.

The Regional Committee adopted resolutions on tackling drug resistance related to AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria; accelerating progress towards malaria elimination in the African Region, and strengthening outbreak preparedness and response in the context of the current influenza pandemic. Another resolution related to policy orientations on the establishment of centres of excellence for disease surveillance, public health laboratories, food and medicines regulation.

The resolution on drug resistance related to AIDS, TB and malaria, urged countries to establish drug resistance and drug efficacy monitoring systems; strengthen procurement and management of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria supplies, and develop and implement policies and strategies to improve diagnosis and effective early treatment.

On prospects for malaria elimination in the Region, the meeting adopted a resolution calling on Member States to integrate malaria control in their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies; support ongoing

research and development initiatives; strengthen national health information systems, and invest more in health promotion, community education and participation.

Regarding the current influenza A (H1N1) pandemic, the meeting urged countries to: ensure the highest level of government support in addressing this threat; strengthen national capacity for influenza diagnosis, and of health services to reduce transmission; periodically update preparedness and response plans, and implement communication strategies that regularly provide updated information.

To boost national capacities for effective and comprehensive disease surveillance and response, laboratory investigation and food and medicines regulation, the meeting urged countries to: conduct an assessment of existing infrastructure and human capacity to determine their state of preparedness to set up centres of excellence; develop a national policy framework on centres of excellence; sensitize relevant national departments and ministries to the need to create centres of excellence and secure multiple funding for centres of excellence in order to guarantee their sustained performance.

The meeting agreed that the sixtieth session of the Regional Committee will take place in 2010 in Equatorial Guinea.

