

REQUEST BY NON-STATE ACTORS TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT AT THE HYBRID SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Non-State actors participating, either in person or virtually, in the hybrid session of the Seventy-second Regional Committee for Africa and wishing to make a statement must submit the complete form hereunder to the Secretariat not later than one week prior to the start date of the session that is **by 15 August 2022**.

Oral statements should not be more than one-minute long, while written statements should not be longer than 600 words. Each statement should focus on technical issues and should be directly relevant to both the agenda item under which it is presented and to the document prepared for the item. The statement should not raise issues of a political nature that are unrelated to the agenda item and should not contain any inappropriate or offensive reference to Member States. While there should not be reference to any individual Member States, or areas of Member States, it is recalled that nomenclature must follow that of the United Nations.

The Chairperson of the Regional Committee shall decide whether to accept or reject a statement in light of its relevance to the discussion, compliance with the time and word limits and the rules stated above. During the meeting, the Chairperson of the Regional Committee shall decide whether to grant a non-State actor the right to present an oral statement in light of time constraints or any other reason. Written statements admitted shall be published on the Regional Committee webpage for a limited time period and will not be retained thereafter.

Request by non-State actors to submit a written or oral statement at the hybrid session of the Seventy-second Regional Committee for Africa

Name and acronym of non-State actor (in English,):

Federation of African Medical Students' Associations (FAMSA)

☒ Written statement

☐ Oral statement

Name of person delivering the statement

Modality of participation: ☐ In person ☐ Virtual

Agenda item (number, title): 10, Framework for the integrated control, elimination and eradication of Tropical and Vector-borne diseases in the African region 2022-2030

Statement (in English,):

FAMSA acknowledges the steps being taken by the WHO and Member States in tackling Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and Vector-borne Diseases (VBDs), and the role this framework plays in achieving "An African Region free of tropical and vector-borne diseases". Unifying strategies to combat malaria, NTDs and VBDs strengthens the efforts towards their eradication.

We also acknowledge the achievement made by Member States in implementing the strategies outlined by the WHO in previous frameworks. As a result, all but six Member States have been certified free of dracunculiasis and all except one have eliminated leprosy. Moreover, malaria case incidence and mortality rate declined by 39% and 63% between 2019 and 2020, respectively.

This framework is essential in improving African healthcare systems and it aligns with FAMSA's vision. Hence, we would like to propose a few recommendations, with the hope that they will make valuable contributions to these accomplishments.

We call upon the WHO African Region, Member States and all stakeholders to:

- Revise the term 'Neglected Tropical Diseases'.
- Decrease the risk of case importation by facilitating the provision of preventive chemotherapy to travelers from endemic areas within and outside the region.
- Prioritize migrant populations when considering effective means of prompt diagnosis and treatment.
- Adopt the malaria vaccination into their national malaria control strategies.
- Establish stronger health data systems by implementing a national electronic medical records system in every Member State.
- Ensure timely and effective distribution of commodities by integrating this into established primary healthcare services.
- Devise sustainable means of acquiring domestic funding.

We recognize the burden these diseases place on the health and socioeconomic state of African governments and the challenges that have been encountered while striving to eradicate them. These challenges have also highlighted deficiencies in the approach to healthcare and opportunities to scale up the healthcare system of the region.

The control and elimination of Tropical and Vector-borne Diseases presents an opportunity to improve the standard of living of Africans.

Name: Catherine Ojema Debra

Position: Member

DATE: 15th August 2022