

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, French or Portuguese): International Association for Dental Research (IADR)

Written statement

Oral statement

Name of person delivering the statement

Modality of participation: In person Virtual

Agenda item (number, title): Agenda Item 17.1: Progress report on the Regional oral health strategy 2016–2025: addressing oral diseases as part of noncommunicable diseases _____

Statement (in English, French or Portuguese): The Mission of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) is to drive dental, oral and craniofacial research for health and well-being worldwide and we applaud the Regional oral health strategy. IADR is pleased that 17 Member States within the African region have incorporated the oral health agenda into their national health and non-communicable disease (NCD) policies. IADR is also pleased that 31 Member States within the African region have integrated oral health indicators into existing integrated surveillance systems.

As progress continues to be made, IADR asks for the following considerations:

- **Implementation of operational research in the Africa region** – several countries reported difficulties measuring progress in the implementation of the strategy due to the lack of baseline data, research, and monitoring and evaluation systems. This lack of data continues to be systemic as only nine of the 17 Member States with oral health policy documents, established a monitoring system to track its progress. Research and data

should be a cornerstone consideration of all intervention programs and policy implementation.

- **Allocation of adequate resources to implement national oral health policies including research programs** – several Member States reported a lack of political commitment, resources, policies, and data that hindered the acceleration of the oral health agenda. The failure of well-funded research programs transcends beyond surveillance, the collection of data, and evaluation but also hinders the ability to support decision-making and track progress in oral health activities.
- **Extension of the Regional strategy to align with the Global strategy by 2030** -

the regional oral health strategy should be firmly integrated into the implementation of the global action plan for NCD prevention and control and with efforts to advance primary health care and universal health care. _____

Name: Dr. Makyba Charles-Ayinde _____

Position: Director of Science Policy _____

Date: August 12, 2022