



**EU/ACP/WHO Renewed Partnership: Strengthening pharmaceutical systems
and improving access to quality medicines in African ACP countries**

EU/ACP/WHO Renewed Partnership 3rd Year meeting

29 June to 3rd July 2015, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

1. Background

The EU/ACP/WHO Renewed Partnership (RP) to strengthen pharmaceutical systems and improve access to quality medicines in 15 African ACP countries started on the 1st October 2012 and was launched in Dakar in April 2013 and is now in its 3rd year of implementation. Early 2015, a mid-term review of the RP was performed by external consultants to analyse the performance of the RP and to provide conclusions and recommendations to improve the implementation before the end of the project.

Every year, representatives from Ministries of Health, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), medicine advisors from WHO country offices, WHO staff from AFRO and headquarters involved in the RP implementation meet to review progress and facilitate the implementation of planned activities at country, sub-regional and regional level. Specific topics of interest for countries or new subjects in relation to the global agenda on access to essential medicines are included in the agenda of these meetings. The 2nd year annual planning and monitoring meeting was held in Harare in June 2014.

Similarly, the RP 3rd year meeting will be held from 29 June to 3rd July 2015, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo and it will have two parts. The first part of the meeting (29 and 30 June 2015) will bring together WHO medicines country advisors in charge of the day-to-day implementation of the RP, to provide them with feedback on the general overview of the implementation of the RP 2nd year plan and with the outcome of the mid-term review and the second Steering Committee with the European Commission. This part of the meeting will further discuss the role of WHO medicines advisors in countries and more particularly in the policy dialogue necessary in the pharmaceutical sector.

The second part of the meeting (1st to 3rd July 2015) will bring together representatives of Ministries of Health, RECs and WHO medicine advisors involved in the RP implementation. During this meeting, the representatives will share information on progress made in countries with the implementation of activities identified for the 3rd year RP plan; will share experiences, opportunities and challenges and foster a strategy to enhance implementation of agreed activities to achieve RP objectives and expected results. The meeting will address modalities to further increase the visibility of the RP in countries.

In addition, training sessions and discussions will also be organized on specific topics including:

- Good governance and transparency in the pharmaceutical sector,
- Development of pricing and reimbursement policies within national health insurance systems as part of the Universal Health Coverage agenda,
- Selection of essential medicines,
- National procurement systems

It is for the above-mentioned reasons that the 3rd Year meeting is being organized to review progress and facilitate the implementation of the EU/ACP/WHO RP to strengthen pharmaceutical systems and improve access to quality medicines in 15 beneficiary African countries.

2. Objectives of the meeting

2.1 General Objective

To review progress and facilitate the implementation of the EU/ACP/WHO Renewed Partnership to strengthen pharmaceutical systems and improve access to quality medicines in 15 beneficiary African countries.

2.2 Specific objectives:

For the 29 and 30 June meeting:

- a) To discuss with WHO country medicines advisors and address challenges and opportunities in countries for the implementation of the RP activities, and how to better support countries in reaching the RP objectives based on the outcome of the mid-term review; and
- b) To provide guidance to WHO medicines advisors for enhancing their role in countries particularly in policy dialogue in the pharmaceutical sector.

From 1st to 3rd July meeting:

- a) To share experiences and best practices on the progress, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the RP activities;
- b) To share the outcome of the mid-term review and further discuss how to improve inter-country and intra-ACP collaboration through the RP, regional initiatives (RECs, ACAME, African Union) and with other stakeholders;
- c) To provide guidance for the next reporting and to share experiences on how to further increase visibility of the RP activities in countries; and
- d) To agree on new areas of focus, activities and methodologies to be supported by the RP on specific technical topics in line with global and regional priorities for essential medicines.

3. Expected outcomes

- a) WHO country medicine advisors are empowered to better support countries to reach the RP objectives and increase their role in policy dialogue;
- b) Experiences, challenges and opportunities in implementing the RP activities are shared between countries, best practices and solutions are identified, and visibility on the RP activities is further increased in countries;
- c) Better structuring of identified inter-country and intra-ACP collaborations;
- d) Country representatives are aware of potential activities to be supported by the RP in line with global and regional priorities to be translated into country activities in their 4th year work plan.

4. Follow-up

4.1 Short-Term

- (a) Finalize and distribute the report of the meeting

(b) Provide technical support for implementation of the 3rd year activities and preparation of activities for the fourth year.

5. Dates and venue: 29 June to 3rd July, Brazzaville

6. Language

The meeting will be conducted in English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

7. Participants: The meeting will be attended by representatives from:

- (a) WHO medicines advisors implementing the RP
- (b) Focal points /representatives from ministries of health from the 15 RP beneficiary countries
- (c) Representatives from RECs and ACAME
- (d) WHO staff (EMP/HQ, IST/SE and AFRO)
- (e) Representatives from European Commission/Delegations and the ACP Secretariat