



Hotel Président de Yamoussoukro

HOTELS CONTACTS

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CONTACT NUMBERS OF UN-APPROVED PHYSICIANS

- Dr Roland Rizet, WHO Regional Staff Physician, tel.: 58 40 28 38 (*Dispensary available on the premises of the Conference Centre*)
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WHO SECRETARIAT CONTACTS

- Dr Mamadou Ball, Representative, tel.: 09 834 047
- Mr Djimtoloum, Administrator, tel.: 46 964 535/ 02 238 8132
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- Mr Pascal Mouhouelo, Exhibition, tel.: 242 06 68 63 710
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EVENTS AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

Tuesday, 30 August:

- Panel discussion health financing - 09:00 to 12:30 - Plenary, Room C
- Meeting of the AFPHA - 09:00 to 12:30 - Room A
- Consultative meeting with GFATM - 16:30 to 18:30 - Plenary, Room C
- Exhibition – Conference Centre - All day
- Reception offered by the World Health Organization - 19:00

Wednesday, 31 August:

- Exhibition on the occasion of the African Traditional Medicine Day - Main Hall, all day
- Meeting of the AFPHA - 09:00 - 12:30 - Room A
- Launch of the African Federation of Public Health Associations - 14:00 to 14:30 - Plenary, Room C
- GAVI special session: "Sustainability of Vaccination Programmes" - 16:30 to 18:00 - Room C

SOCIAL EVENTS

Thursday, 1st September :

- 20h00: Gala dinner at Hotel President, Poolside.

Friday, 2nd September:

- 13H30: City Tour
- 19H00: Religious Concert at the Basilique Notre Dame de la Paix.



Cultural performance from Baoulé during the opening ceremony (Allah Thérèse)

TRAVEL

A travel desk is available at the entrance of the Conference Centre. Delegates are kindly requested to confirm their return flights by filling in the form that is in your folder and send it back to the Secretariat.

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

WI-FI is available throughout the Conference Centre and can be accessed via RC61 A and RC61 B networks. No password is required.

CYBER CAFE

Computers and internet facilities are available in the Main Hall, at the Ground floor.

EXHIBITION

More than 45 countries submitted materials for this year's RC61. Please make sure that you visit the exposition and the different stands. An expansive exhibition on African traditional medicine is also on display, to commemorate African Traditional Medicine Day on 31 August and the launch of the African Decade of Traditional Medicine in the African Region.



RC61 Exhibition



JOURNAL

Issued in English, French and Portuguese

N°2

Available on the Internet: <http://www.afro.who.int>

30th August 2011

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK DAY 2:
TUESDAY, 30 AUGUST 2011**

09:00 - 10:30	Item 8	Panel Discussion - Health financing: Sharing experiences in securing funding to achieve national health development goals (Document AFR/RC61/PD1)
10:30 - 11:00		Tea break
11:00 - 12:30	Item 8	(Cont'd)
12:30 - 14:00		Lunch break
14:00 - 16:00	Item 9	Framework document for the African Public Health Emergency Fund (Document AFR/RC61/4)
16:00 - 16:30		Tea break
16:30 - 18:30	Side event	Consultative meeting: Ministers of Health of the African Region with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria: Lessons learnt from round 10 and the preparation of Round 11
18:30		End of day session
19:00		Reception offered by the World Health Organization



OPENING CEREMONY OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE



The opening ceremony of the 61st session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC61) took place at the *Fondation Felix Houphouët-Boigny pour la Recherche de la Paix* in Yamoussoukro, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, on 29 August 2011 under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of Côte d'Ivoire. The opening ceremony was presided by H.E. Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs and acting Prime Minister. The ceremony had the following speakers:

- M. Jean Kouacou Gnaragbe Kouadio, Mayor of Yamoussoukro;
- Prof. Thérèse Aya N'Dri-Yoman, Minister of Health and AIDS control, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
- Dr Luis Gomes Sambo, WHO Regional Director for the Africa;
- Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General;
- H.E. Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, representing H.E. the President of Republic.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Regional Committee appointed the Sub-committee on Nominations consisting of the following Member States: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, Swaziland and Uganda.

The Subcommittee on Nominations met on Monday, 29th August 2011 and elected, Prof. Thérèse Aya N'Dri-Yoman, Minister of Health and HIV/AIDS control from the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire as its Chairperson.



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EXCERPTS FROM THE ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE



*Mr Daniel Kablan Duncan
State Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs*

It is a great honour for me to warmly welcome, on behalf of the President of the Republic, H.E. Mr Alassane Ouattara, all the delegates, participants and guests, who have made the journey to Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, to attend this important meeting of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa.

Côte d'Ivoire is proud to host this major meeting and, on behalf the President of the Republic, I would like to convey the gratitude of the Government and People of Côte d'Ivoire to WHO Member States for this show of esteem and sympathy.

I would also like to commend all WHO Member States in the African Region, as well as all development partners for their efforts since decades to provide the African people with a health status enabling Africa not only to exist but also to occupy an honourable position in the concert of nations.

However, everyone knows that much remains to be done to reach the top ranks in health. One of the illustrious Directors-General, Dr Mahler, used to say, "Health is not everything, but without it there is nothing".

African States have understood that efforts have been made to achieve results. Although these results are still inadequate, they are not negligible, but it would be needless to list them here. Now, African must also enjoy their health, which is not only the absence of disease or infirmity, but a complete state of physical, mental and social wellbeing.

It is to achieve this multi-dimensional state of health that African States decided in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2001 to allocate at least 15% of national budgets to health. We are fully aware that achieving the health Millennium Development Goals, and in general all the MDGs by 2015 will be a major challenge for Côte d'Ivoire. But, we can affirm that Côte d'Ivoire will be among countries that will make the most progress in the next four years (by 2015) towards achieving the set targets.

Last but not least, I would like to stress that we expect from your deliberations relevant and practical guidance for improving the health of the African people. I can assure you that Côte d'Ivoire is willing to host another WHO Regional Committee Meeting in five years' time to assess progress.

EXCERPTS FROM THE OPENING REMARKS OF THE WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, thanked the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the Sixty-first session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa.

She noted that the session was taking place at the most appropriate time. "We are meeting during very difficult times. Nearly every corner of the Globe is experiencing a crisis... natural disasters... drought in the Horn of Africa, the debt crisis, war zones, mass protests, social unrest", stated Dr Chan before huge audience that included over 20 Ministers of Finance or Health, as well as Directors and Representatives of the Global Fund, GAVI, World Bank, African Development Bank, AMREF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and health officials of the 46 Member States of the WHO African Region.

Given the unprecedented magnitude of the natural disasters, Dr Chan commended the African Region for implementing the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans as well as early warning systems, thereby enabling many countries to face up to extreme weather conditions without major damage.

The WHO Director-General also hailed the launch of the African Public Health Emergency Fund, which will be the subject of one of the main subjects to be discussed during the Sixty-first session of the Regional Committee.

While the global financial crisis continues to worsen, said Dr Chan, "we have entered a new era of financial austerity, with profound implications for national health budgets, international health assistance, and the future of financing for WHO. I am fully aware that this Region continues to have major needs in terms of direct technical support from WHO and you have my promise, notwithstanding our economic realities".

Despite the economic slowdown, Dr Chan emphasized the urgency with which WHO should implement reforms in order to serve the countries better even with fewer resources. She also announced to delegates that they would need constant support from WHO staff in their countries and even more intensified and coordinated support in mobilizing resources to finance national health development plans.

On behalf of WHO, Dr Chan expressed her sincere condolences to the United Nations staff in Nigeria. She went on to express her indignation for the bomb attack, which killed and injured persons devoting their lives to protecting and improving the lives of vulnerable people.



*Dr Margaret Chan
WHO Director General*

EXCERPTS FROM THE STATEMENT BY THE WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR



*Dr Luis Gomes Sambo
WHO Regional Director for Africa*

The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Luis Gomes Sambo, thanked the President and the people of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the Regional Committee and for the excellent facilities offered by the *Fondation Félix Houphouët-Boigny pour la Recherche de la Paix*.

Dr. Sambo recalled the bomb blast in the United Nations House in Abuja, Nigeria on the 26th of August 2011 and called for a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the bomb blast.

The Regional Director stated that some progress has been made in the area of Health. This includes the introduction of new conjugate vaccine for cerebrospinal meningitis, decreasing trends in infant mortality rates, a decrease in HIV incidence by more than 25% in 22 countries, increasing access to antiretroviral therapy and insecticide-treated bednets, and reduction by more than 50% in malaria-related deaths in health facilities in 12 countries, among others.

He commended the efforts being made by African Heads of State and communities and the important contributions made by development partners towards these achievements in the Region.

The Regional Director indicated that despite the progress made, there were challenges that needed to be met. These include recurring epidemics like cholera, cerebrospinal meningitis, haemorrhagic fevers, like yellow fever and Rift Valley Fever; and natural disasters like the drought which was affecting the Horn of Africa and leading to massive displacement of populations, lack of water, poor hygiene, loss of livestock; famine and malnutrition.

He said that droughts and floods were occurring within the context of climate change it was appropriate that the Regional Committee would deliberate on a framework for public health adaptation to climate change. He observed that the capacity to respond to epidemics and emergencies in the Region was weak and that the Regional Committee would deliberate on the modalities of financing and the contributions of Member States to the African Public Health Emergency Fund. He also noted that progress towards the attainment of the health-MDGs was slow and non-communicable diseases were becoming an increasing problem in the Region.

Dr. Sambo informed the delegates that the 2008 global financial crisis had affected several institutions and WHO had not been spared. The impact had been most severe in the African Region with a budgetary deficit in the order of USD 350 million during the on-going biennium. This has led to the separation of a good proportion of staff members in priority programmes like HIV/AIDS, malaria, Tuberculosis, maternal and child health and health systems strengthening.

He informed the delegates that the African Federation of Public Health Associations would be launched during the course of the Regional Committee.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN, THE VICE-CHAIRMEN AND RAPPORTEURS



The Regional Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

- **Chairman:** Prof. Thérèse Aya N'Dri-Yoman
Minister of Health and HIV/AIDS Control
Republic of Cote d' Ivoire
- **Vice-Chairman:** Prof. Georges Moyon
Minister of Health and Population
Republic of Congo
- **Vice-Chairman:** Dr. Alexandre Manguela
Minister of Health
Republic of Mozambique

Rapporteurs:

- Dr. H. Madzorera
Minister of Health and Child Welfare
Zimbabwe (English)
- Prof. Charles Kondi Agba
Minister of Health
Togo (French)
- Dr. Cristina Fontes
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health,
Cape Vert (Portuguese)

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK DAY 3:
Wednesday, 31st August 2011**

09:00	Item 5	Report of the Subcommittee on Credentials
09:15	(cont'd)	
09:15	Item 10	WHO Reform for a Healthy Future (AFR/RC61/5)
11:00		10.1 Concept paper on the Governance of WHO (AFR/RC61/CP/1)
		10.2 Concept paper on an independent evaluation of WHO (AFR/RC61/CP/2)
		10.3 Concept paper on the World Health Forum WHO (AFR/RC61/CP/3)
11:00 - 11:30	Tea break	
11:30	Item 11	Implementation of the WHO Programme Budget 2010-2011 in the African Region (Document AFR/RC61/ 16)
12:30	Lunch break	
14:00	Side event	Launch of the African Federation of Public Health Associations
14:30		
14:30	Item 12	WHO Programme Budget 2012-2013: Orientations for implementation in the African Region (Document AFR/RC61/7)
16:00		
16:00 - 16:30	Tea break	
16:30	Side event	Consultative meeting of Ministers of Health with GAVI Secretariat: Sustainability of Vaccination Programmes
18:00		
18:00	End of day session	