



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventieth Session

Virtual session, 24 November 2020

**STRATEGY FOR SCALING UP HEALTH INNOVATIONS
IN THE WHO AFRICAN REGION**

The Regional Committee,

Having carefully examined the document entitled “Strategy for scaling up health innovations in the WHO African Region” (Document AFR/RC70/11);

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA61.21 on Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property; document AFR/RC59/6 on Public health, innovation and intellectual property: regional perspective to implement the Global strategy and plan of action; resolution AFR/RC65/R2 on Research for health: a strategy for the African Region, 2016-2025;

Concerned by the current low pace of progress in the African Region in reducing deaths among mothers and children; the worsening of health outcomes in fragile contexts, rural areas, urban slums, and conflict zones, and among marginalized groups, including poor people and those with disabilities;

Cognizant of the growing disease burden, which is exacerbated by emerging socioeconomic dynamics and epidemiological changes related to unplanned rural-urban migration and climate change;

Acknowledging that accelerating innovations is critical to scaling up health interventions particularly in hard-to-reach areas and among marginalized population groups residing in rural areas;

Mindful of the need to strengthen innovation systems in countries to make them responsive to the innovation needs of the African Region and to harness and scale up new and improved innovations;

Conscious that functional innovation systems depend on the commitment of national leaders to prioritize investments for innovation to effectively harness and scale up high-impact innovations that address unmet health needs and accelerate health outcomes;

Reaffirming the need for Member States to share experiences and knowledge on the progress made by countries in implementing innovation initiatives,

1. **ADOPTS** the Strategy for scaling up health innovations in the WHO African Region as proposed in Document AFR/RC70/11.

2. URGES Member States to:

- (a) commit adequate resources to support the implementation of this strategy;
- (b) provide leadership, management and advocacy, including:
 - (i) setting up governance and management mechanisms for innovation at the highest level;
 - (ii) developing performance agreements among partners, with clear terms of reference;
 - (iii) developing accountability agreements among collaborating partners and organizations;
 - (iv) providing sustained support to participating organizations;
- (c) build and ensure strong political support at the different tiers of the health system to facilitate adoption of locally developed, innovative solutions that suit local contexts.

3. REQUESTS the WHO Secretariat and partners to:

- (a) develop and disseminate technical guidance to support implementation of this strategy, including monitoring and evaluation;
- (b) facilitate synergies and complementarity in partnerships for the implementation of this strategy;
- (c) catalyse mobilization of domestic and external resources, and support the development of business cases for investment to scale up health innovations;
- (d) develop an integrated electronic platform to build country capacity to identify, select, scale up and monitor and evaluate health innovations;
- (e) conduct capacity-building activities on innovation and innovation management;
- (f) Report on progress in the implementation of the Regional Strategy to the Regional Committee in 2023, 2025 and 2030.