



**World Health
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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

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RESOLUTION

HIV/AIDS STRATEGY IN THE AFRICAN REGION: A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Regional Committee,

Noting that HIV/AIDS which has now become the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa, eroding the gains made in development in the past fifty years including the hard-won achievements in child survival and life expectancy;

Aware that Member States have recognised the epidemic as a major threat to the well-being of the region, while the Security Council has declared it a global security risk;

Recognizing that African countries, with the support of the international community, have adopted the Framework for International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa (IPAA), an initiative meant to mobilize greater resources and intensify action against HIV/AIDS in Africa;

Acknowledging the successes achieved in reducing or maintaining at low levels, HIV prevalence in some countries in the Region.

Recognizing that poverty, under-development, lack of opportunities, poor nutrition, conflicts and complex emergencies fuel the spread of HIV/AIDS and hamper the response to the pandemic;

Recalling Resolution AFR/RC46/R8 endorsing the Regional HIV/AIDS Strategy which reiterated the major role of the health sector in any multisectoral national effort to reduce the morbidity, mortality and socioeconomic impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

Recalling also Resolution WHA53.14 by which Member States and WHO were urged to strengthen the health sector's contribution to the global responses to HIV/AIDS;

Considering previous Declarations, Decisions and Recommendations of the OAU on controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa;

Convinced of the need to accelerate the implementation of the Regional HIV/AIDS Strategy in order to enhance the contribution of the health sector to the reduction of HIV transmission and its socio-economic impact on individuals, communities and nations;

1. APPROVES the framework for the implementation of the Regional HIV/AIDS Strategy as presented in document AFR/RC50/11;

2. THANKS the Heads of States and Government for the decision to adopt the Commitment to Action of Ouagadougou, at the 36th Ordinary Summit of the Organisation of African Unity, held in Lome;
3. APPRECIATES the commitment made by Heads of States and Government, at the same Summit, to take personal responsibility and oversee the activities of National HIV/AIDS Commissions and Councils where they exist, and to ensure their establishment where they do not exist;
4. SUPPORTS the decision taken by Heads of States and Government to hold, in the year 2001, a Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other communicable diseases;
5. REQUESTS Member States:
 - (i) to mobilize and allocate adequate financial and human resources to the national response, taking due advantage of the ongoing debt relief initiatives and advocating for debt cancellation;
 - (ii) to intensify their actions to alleviate poverty, integrating HIV/AIDS as a major component of poverty reduction strategies;
 - (iii) to establish strong national coordinating mechanisms for the multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS, located in the most appropriate ministry according to the country's specific situation;
 - (iv) to develop and update national legislation and policies on key aspects of HIV/AIDS in order to provide an enabling environment for prevention, care and impact mitigation, including the protection of the rights of People Living With and Affected by HIV/AIDS;
 - (iv) to facilitate the development and implementation of plans of action on health sector interventions as part of multisectoral national strategic frameworks;
 - (vi) to adapt and apply the documented body of experiences and scientific knowledge available at the global, regional and national levels on cost-effective interventions for HIV/AIDS prevention and care;
 - (vii) to strengthen their health systems and ensure that adequate and skilled human resources as well as appropriate systems of financing, procurement and distribution are available for addressing needs in HIV/AIDS prevention and care, in collaboration with the private sector;
 - (viii) to take the necessary steps to integrate HIV/AIDS/STI interventions into health systems at all levels, drawing upon the opportunities provided by the Bamako Initiative and the ongoing health sector reforms;
 - (ix) to strengthen their partnership with non-governmental organisations in order to ensure their effective involvement in the multisectoral response;
 - (x) to accelerate the expansion of programmes by decentralizing the planning and implementation of programmes to the district level, providing support for local responses, ensuring the participation of the communities and people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and enhancing access to financial resources for activities;
 - (xi) to select and implement relevant cost-effective interventions including preventive actions for the benefit of adolescents and young people, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, provision of care and support for people affected by HIV/AIDS, especially orphans; implementation of blood safety actions, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, voluntary counselling and testing, and epidemiological surveillance;

- (xii) to increase access to treatment and prophylaxis of HIV-related illness through measures such as the provision of drugs at affordable prices; implementation of policies on generic drugs; negotiation with pharmaceutical companies; partnership with the private sector;
 - (xiii) to encourage the local manufacture and import of drugs through practices consistent with national laws and international agreements;
 - (xiv) to promote and support research by national scientists, especially on the local production of drugs and traditional medicines;
 - (xv) to adapt and implement, when affected by conflicts and complex emergencies, these strategies to their specific circumstances;
 - (xvi) to establish an appropriate framework for managing the health component of national the HIV/AIDS response within the health sector;
6. REQUESTS international and other partners to advocate and intensify support to countries within the context of the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa.
7. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (i) to provide technical support to Member States in order to strengthen the capacity of the health sector to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic;
 - (ii) to mobilize regular and extrabudgetary resources to support the strengthening of the health sector's response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic;
 - (iii) to advocate for the cancellation of debt for heavily indebted countries and those severely affected by HIV/AIDS;
 - (iv) to take appropriate measures to enhance WHO's capacity to provide timely and effective technical support to national programmes as part of the UN System-wide response in the context of UNAIDS;
 - (v) to strengthen collaboration and partnership with other United Nations agencies, in the context of UNAIDS.
 - (vi) to report to the 52nd session of the Regional Committee on progress made in the implementation of the Regional HIV/AIDS Strategy.