



15 July 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL SESSION 1: WORLD BANK - HEALTH FINANCING

1. JUSTIFICATION

The WHO Director-General and the President of the World Bank committed their respective agencies to collaborating in providing support to countries on health, nutrition and population activities in Africa.

Due to many recent developments, there is now a growing need for increased cooperation between WHO and World Bank especially at country level. This growing need results mainly from the prominence of both WHO and World Bank in supporting countries' efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) most of which pertain to health as well as the availability at country level of significant funds for financing health systems by drawing upon international initiatives such as the HIPC, Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and many others.

Most of the World Bank projects in countries are negotiated at central level mainly with the ministry of finance with little involvement of the ministry of health, with the result that the projects are not well known in the health sector. Consequently, when problems occur in the implementation process, there is, sometimes, inadequate understanding of how best to address them. In addition, various partners working in the health sector are unaware of the existence of such World Bank projects and their operations. That has, to some extent, led to duplication of efforts and misunderstanding.

World Bank credit allocations to countries provide substantial financial resources for health. WHO, for its part, has immense technical know-how which can be drawn upon to support countries to make better use of World Bank funds in implementing activities related to health, nutrition and population at the country level.

In the light of the foregoing, this special session will discuss the modalities of World Bank financing in health.

2. OBJECTIVE

This special session aims to update ministers of health on the World Bank mechanisms and processes for supporting health projects so that countries can take full advantage of the resources available for health development.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased understanding of World Bank mechanisms for supporting the health sector in countries of the WHO African Region.
- Greater knowledge of the challenges to overcome in obtaining the funds.
- Further orientations on how WHO can help to improve these processes.

4. PARTICIPANTS

Member States : -Ministers of health or their representatives

WHO : -WHO Secretariat

World Bank : -World Bank staff.

5. MANAGEMENT OF THE SESSION

Chairman : -Minister of Health, Botswana

Alternate Chairman : -Minister of Health, Ghana

Date : -2 September, 2003

Time : -4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Place : -Johannesburg

Venue : -To be announced at the Regional Committee meeting

6. PROPOSED PROGRAMME

(a) **Introductory remarks** : -Dr E.M. Samba, WHO Regional Director for Africa – 5 minutes.

(b) **Presentation on World Bank support to health, nutrition and population activities in Africa** : -Dr O.K. Pannenborg, World Bank - 10 minutes

(c) **Discussion** : -40 minutes

(d) **Conclusion** : -5 minutes