



15 July 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

### **SPECIAL SESSION 3: UPDATE ON NEPAD HEALTH STRATEGY**

#### **1. JUSTIFICATION**

Much progress has been made in developing the NEPAD health strategy whose implementation is about to start. The strategy was discussed by ministers of health at the fifty-second session of the WHO Regional Committee in Harare, Zimbabwe, in September 2002. It was also discussed at an Expert Committee meeting of the West African Health Organization held in Dakar, Senegal in December 2002 and subsequently at an expert consultative meeting in Pretoria, South Africa in April 2003. The gathering in Pretoria provided a forum for detailed peer review by identified experts, regional economic communities, agencies of the United Nations and civil society organizations. In April 2003, the strategy was approved at the conference of health ministers of the African Union in Tripoli, Libya.

There is widespread support for the basic tenets of the NEPAD strategy. In effect, the strategy was born in the light of the grim reality that Africa faces a huge burden of preventable and treatable diseases that cause avoidable deaths and untold suffering, hamper economic development and undermine the social fabric of countries on the continent. Furthermore, Africa is clearly not on track towards achieving the health goals contained in the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations, the Abuja Declaration on Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis and even the Health-for-All Policy in the 21st Century in the African Region: Agenda 2020.

In May 2003, the strategy was approved by the NEPAD Heads of State Steering Committee in Abuja, Nigeria. Appended to the approved strategy was a list of identified projects. To move the process forward, project briefs have now been developed in each area identified in the strategy, and will form the basis for resource mobilization. In this regard, a meeting on NEPAD resource mobilization is scheduled for November 2003.

#### **2. OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of the present session is to update ministers of health on the progress made, to date, on the NEPAD health strategy, review the draft project briefs for NEPAD resource mobilization and give orientations for the implementation of the NEPAD health strategy.

### 3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased awareness of the progress made with regard to the NEPAD health strategy.
- Project briefs for resource mobilization reviewed.
- Further orientations on steps to be taken to implement the NEPAD health strategy provided.

### 4. PARTICIPANTS

**Member States** : Ministers of health or their representatives.

**NEPAD** : NEPAD Secretariat

**WHO** : WHO Secretariat

### 5. MANAGEMENT OF THE SESSION

**Chairman** : Minister of Health, Algeria

**Alternate Chairman** : Minister of Health, Nigeria

**Date** : 4 September, 2003

**Time** : 4.00 p.m. – 6.30 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) **Overview of the NEPAD  
Process** : -Professor Nkulhu, NEPAD Secretariat – 10 minutes

(c) **NEPAD health strategy  
and project briefs** : -Professor Eric Buch, NEPAD Secretariat– 15 minutes

(d) **Discussion** : -1 hour 45 minutes

(e) **Conclusion** : -15 minutes