

RC64 GUIDE AND IMPORTANT CONTACTS



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1. DR ROLAND RIZET, WHO PHYSICIAN	TEL.: 61 69 41 13
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK DAY 3: Wednesday, 5th November 2014

08:00–10:30	Agenda item 8 (cont'd)	Nomination of the Regional Director (Voting—closed meeting) (Document AFR/RC64/INF.DOC/5)
10:30–11:00	Tea break	
11:00–12:30	Agenda item 9	Progress towards the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals in the African Region (Document AFR/RC64/4)
12:30–14:00	Lunch break	
14:00–16:00	Agenda item 10	Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa: update and lessons learnt (Document AFR/RC64/9)
16:00–16:30	Tea break	
16:30–18:00	Agenda item 11	African Public Health Emergency Fund: accelerating the progress of implementation (Document AFR/RC64/7)

WHO STAFF AWARDS



The RD congratulating Mr Amadou Korka Diallo, as the WHO DG looks on

The following staff members were recognized with awards during RC 64 for their outstanding contribution to the work of the Organization in the African Region in 2014.

(a) Outstanding Staff Member Category:

- **Ms Phyllis Jiri**, Layout Assistant in GMC Cluster, Translation Interpretation and Printing Unit (TIP).
- **Mrs Marie-Louise Omog-Sammick**, Administrative Assistant ORD Cluster at Country Analysis and Support Unit (CAS) at the Regional Office.
- **Mr Konate Issiaga**, National Professional Officer, Health Promotion at the WCO GUINEA.
- **Mr Patrice Amoussou**, Administrative Clerk at the WCO BENIN.
- **Mr Amadou Korka Diallo**, Driver at the WHO Country Office GUINEA.

(b) Outstanding Manager Category:

- **Dr Rock Aristide Sossou**, National Professional Officer, EPI at the WCO BENIN.

(c) Outstanding Team Category:

- **The WHO Kenya EPI Team**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK DAY 2: Tuesday, 4th November 2014

08:15–08:30	Agenda item 5 (cont'd)	Report of the Subcommittee on Credentials
8:30–08:35	Agenda item 2 (cont'd)	Report of the Subcommittee on Nominations
8:35–17:00	Agenda item 8	Nomination of the Regional Director (Interviewing shortlisted Candidates—closed meeting) (Document AFR/RC64/INF.DOC/5)
19:00		Reception hosted by the WHO Director-General and Regional Director

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE



The opening ceremony of the 64th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa took place at the Palais des Congrès in Cotonou, Republic of Benin on 3rd November 2014. The ceremony had the following speakers:

- Honourable Prof. Dorothee Kinde Gazard, Minister of Health of the Republic of Benin
- Mr François Ibovi, Chairman of the 63rd session of the Regional Committee and Minister of Health and Population of the Republic of Congo
- Dr Luis Gomes Sambo, WHO Regional Director for Africa
- Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General
- Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (read by the WHO Director-General)
- President of the Republic of Benin, His Excellency Dr Thomas Boni Yayi

Contents

Excerpts of the opening remarks by the UN Secretary General	2
Excerpts of the opening remarks by the WHO Director-General	2
Excerpts of the Report of the WHO Regional Director	3
Criteria for Nomination of the Regional Director	3
RC 64: Guide and important contacts	4

EXCERPTS OF THE STATEMENT OF H.E. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN, DR THOMAS BONI YAYI



H.E. Dr Thomas Boni Yayi,
President of the Republic of Benin

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Benin, Dr Thomas Boni Yayi, opened the 64th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa paying glowing tribute to WHO through the Director-General and Regional Director. In his speech the President said:

“We consider your presence here in Cotonou as an evidence of your esteem for our country and your commitment to WHO, our common Organization, to enable it to continue to face up to health challenges in accordance with the objectives assigned to it since its establishment in 1948.

I commend Dr Luis Gomes Sambo, WHO Regional Director, for having made so much effort during his tenure of office which is about to end. On behalf of African Heads of State, I would like to express our gratitude and that of the people whom you have served with so much devotion during your tenure of office. You have made quality contribution towards improving Africa's health indicators.

This session of the Regional Committee opens against the backdrop of the ongoing Ebola virus disease epidemic that is having a disastrous economic and social impact on our continent. There is urgent need to find the most effective solutions leading to its eradication. I would like to commend the initiatives of the international community in conducting various researches to find a vaccine and end this terrible viral disease.

Madam Director-General, I would be failing in my duties if I do not testify that the fundamental reform initiated under your leadership of WHO and that you have so skilfully conducted will ever be engraved “in golden letters” in the history of humankind's struggle to improve the well-being of the peoples of all continents.

I would now like to address you the honourable ministers of health and heads of delegation by commending you for the initiatives and actions that you have embarked upon in your respective countries to improve the health status of your peoples.

Thirty years ago, our late compatriot, Dr Alfred Comlan Quenum, passed away. During his tenure of Office as WHO Regional Director for Africa, this dignified son of Benin gave the best of himself for the health development of African countries. May I have your permission to recall his memory at this gathering and to pay him a well-deserved tribute.

During this Cotonou meeting a new Regional Director will be elected to head the WHO African Region. I would like to wish all candidates the best of luck”.

EXCERPTS OF THE STATEMENT BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL (READ BY WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL)



Mr Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General

The Secretary General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon has expressed his solidarity with the people of Africa, particularly

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leon on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) which is currently spreading in these countries.

In a speech read for him by the WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan at the opening of 64th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, Mr Ban Ki-moon pointed out that the world faces an unprecedented Ebola crisis that demands a massive global response and this requires an effective regional partnership.

He emphasized that Ebola is not only killing people but also destroying families and communities and eroding hard-won progress achieved through the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon informed the audience that he and the President of the World Bank, Dr Jim Kim, recently met the Chairperson of the African Union Commission – Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma in Addis Ababa and discussed how the three Organizations could help address the

Ebola epidemic in Africa.

The Secretary-General informed the meeting that he has established the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), the first of its kind in the world, to tackle EVD. He used the opportunity to thank the Republic of Ghana for accepting to host the headquarters of this mission. He therefore requested the honorable Ministers of Health for their leadership as the international community strengthens its response.

Mr Ban Ki-moon reminded the participants of the need to ensure that preparedness plans are in place and funds are available for implementation while UNMEER works on the necessary tools and guidance.

Mr Ban Ki-moon emphasized that as countries formulate the post-2015 development agenda, there is need to strengthen African health systems as the only way to prevent future outbreaks and build vibrant, healthy societies.

EXCERPTS OF THE STATEMENT BY THE WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL



Dr Margaret Chan
WHO Director-General

The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone has set back hard-won political stability and economic recovery and is reversing some striking recent gains in health outcomes.

This was revealed by the WHO Director General Dr Margaret Chan at the opening of the 64th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa currently going in Cotonou, Republic of Benin. "In 2012, WHO estimated that 21,000 people, 95% of them children, died in the three

West African countries combined. This figure was a marked improvement over the 34,000 death estimated for 2000. This is just one of the many positive trends that are now under threat", Dr Chan pointed out.

According to Dr Chan, the EVD ravaging parts of West Africa is the most severe acute public health emergency seen in modern times. She therefore extended her deepest sympathy to the families, neighbours, entire villages, communities that have lost loved ones to Ebola.

The loss of health workers to EVD has been particularly of great concern to the health sectors and Dr Chan emphasized this point as well. "All of us must respect the compassion and courage of so many health workers who unselfishly risked their lives and lost them. The three countries have lost some of their greatest humanitarian heroes" she said.

Yet in all this suffering and loss, WHO stands vindicated on two public health arguments made decades ago that the world is now witnessing in West Africa. The first is about the urgent need to strengthen long-neglected health systems that Dr Luis Sambo, the WHO Regional Director for Africa has always championed.

Weak health systems have made societies vulnerable and facilitated the spread of EVD. "Without fundamental public health infrastructures in place, no country is stable. No society is secure" noted Dr Chan.

The second public health argument that WHO has always struggled to highlight concerns Ebola vaccines and cures that are glaringly non-existent forty year after the EVD emerged. "Why are clinicians still empty-handed, with no vaccines and no cure? Because Ebola has been confined to poor African nations" Dr Chan said. Indeed, Research and Development incentives are non-existent because a profit driven industry does not invest in products for markets that cannot pay.

Dr Chan also talked about the post-2015 development agenda saying that Africa needs to seize this new agenda on its own terms. "This region has, in the past, suffered from some bad development advice. Future solutions to Africa's problems must be uniquely African solutions", she added.

Dr Chan gave the example of a meeting of African Health ministers held in Luanda, Angola in which they endorsed universal health coverage as a means to achieve and sustain the health MDGs and recognised it as an essential part of the post-2015 development agenda. "This is what I mean by leadership" she said.

Finally, Dr Chan praised the work, dedication and invaluable contribution of the outgoing Regional Director Dr Luis Sambo saying: "I thank you Dr Luis Sambo for the years of dedication to WHO and to the health of the African people".

SALIENT POINTS OF THE WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Dr Luis Gomes Sambo
WHO Regional Director

The WHO Regional Director for Africa (RD), Dr Luis Gomes Sambo presented the work of WHO in the African Region for 2012-2013 to the 64th Regional Committee currently going on in Cotonou, Benin.

According to the RD, during that period WHO's work was guided by several policy documents including the 11th General Programme of Work, Country Cooperation Strategies and the Strategic Directions for the African Region 2010 -2015.

The RD reported a number of achievements attained on the health related MDGs such as increased investments in the health sector, reduction in under-five mortality rate and in the burden of vaccine preventable diseases, malaria, HIV and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Other achievements are the successful interruption of the transmission of poliovirus in the countries with re-established transmission; significant reduction in WPV transmission in Nigeria; and elimination of epidemic threats due to meningococcal A meningitis.

On NTDs, the RD reported that cumulatively 36 countries developed integrated national master plans currently being implemented. Regarding NCDs, 20 countries were reported to have prioritized prevention and control by creating units, programmes or departments in their ministries of health.

Concerning communicable and noncommunicable diseases and conditions,

the RD noted the excellent collaboration with the African Network on Vector Resistance that resulted into data collection on insecticide resistance. This data is now used to operationalize the Global Plan on Insecticide Resistance Management. WHO also launched the consolidated guidelines on antiretroviral medicines to treat and prevent HIV infections as well as developing a framework that integrates paediatric tuberculosis into Directly Observed Treatment, Short course.

On response to emergencies, the RD pointed out WHO's coordinated support for the health components in armed conflicts and disease outbreaks that minimized morbidity hence saving lives. Furthermore, WHO, in partnership with other key stakeholders, addressed the food and nutrition aspects of crisis in the Sahel and in other countries of the Region.

The RD recognized the stronger collaboration between the ministries of health and finance and the innovative ways devised to increase health financing and service delivery for universal health coverage. Besides, WHO supported Member States to develop and revise national policies through multisectoral task forces to promote health in all policies and develop legislation on specific risks such as alcohol and tobacco use.

However, the modest investments in health and the above achievements are yet to translate into better health outcomes. For instance, the progress towards attainment of the MDGs by 2015 is slow and inadequate.

For the 12th General Programme of Work 2014–2019, the RD mentioned that WHO will focus on advancing universal health coverage to enable countries sustain or expand access to essential health services. Particular attention will be put on addressing challenges to health-related MDGs as well as on eradication of polio and selected NTDs.

Furthermore, WHO will work on NCDs, mental health, violence, injuries and disabilities and implementation of the IHR (2005). Other areas will be increasing access to essential, high-quality and affordable medical products and the social, economic and environmental determinants of health to reduce health inequities within and between countries.

CRITERIA FOR THE NOMINATION OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

- **Good understanding of and commitment to the WHO mission**
 - Clear understanding of WHO mission, roles, functions, policies and strategies.
- **Proven leadership qualities**
 - Must be visionary, dynamic and results-oriented.
 - Ability to communicate both orally and in writing, in a clear, effective and inspiring way.
 - Personal integrity and a great capacity to withstand pressures from both official and private sources on issues that could jeopardize the Organization's interests.
- **Proven managerial ability**
 - Highly analytical mind and the ability to set goals and objectives, design programmes for the optimal use of the Organization's overall resources and develop an appropriate process for M&E.
 - Ability to work effectively with leaders, at both national and international levels, in the health and related sectors.
- **Professional and technical qualifications**
 - Professionally qualified in the health field and have a sound knowledge of public health, including its epidemiological basis.
- **Sensitivity to cultural, social, political and other differences**
 - Broad knowledge of and be sensitive to the varying cultural, social, political and linguistic differences of the Region;
 - Be fluent in at least one of the 3 working languages of the Region and have working knowledge of at least one of the other language.
- **The candidate should be sufficiently healthy to carry out the duties.**

THE PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

- **The candidates shall be interviewed by the Committee in a private meeting, open only to Member States of the Region as well as essential Secretariat staff designated by the Director-General;**
- **The interview shall consist of a presentation by each candidate in addition to answers to questions from Members of the Committee.**
- **The RC will be conducted as follows:**
 - Limit each interview to 60 minutes divided equally between;
 - Oral presentation by the candidate;
 - Question-and-answers.
- **The question-and-answer procedures:**
 - (i) Before the beginning of each presentation, the Secretariat will distribute to each representative of Member States a paper on which the representative may write one question;
 - (ii) The papers are collected by the Secretariat at the end of the presentation and handed over to the Chairperson, who draws each question randomly and poses it to the candidate;
 - (iii) The candidate has up to three minutes to respond to each question;
 - (iv) Should there be insufficient questions to fill the allotted time; the candidate could make additional statements as desired until the end of the 60-minute period set for the interview.