

VIRTUAL MEETING 2021

THE 71st SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA
24 - 26 August 2021 09:00 (GMT +1)

RC71

African Health Ministers open meeting to shape continent's health agenda



African Health Ministers and representatives from countries gathered today for the Seventy-first session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa, the preeminent meeting on public health in Africa. During the annual gathering, the Health Ministers set the health agenda for the next 12 months.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the three-day session is being held virtually for the second year in a row. While opening the session, Hon Prime Minister Victoire Tomegah Dogbé of Togo, who spoke on behalf of H. E. President Faure Gnassingbé, called for stronger global solidarity to ensure COVID-19 vaccine equity.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the urgent need for global solidarity, which is highlighted by the need for countries to seek effective protective measures, both individually and collectively," said Hon Prime Minister Dogbé.

To reinforce global solidarity, WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, urged African countries to support an international treaty or other legal instrument to improve international cooperation on pandemic preparedness and response that will be discussed in November at a Special Session of the World Health Assembly.

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WHO Africa's response to COVID-19 on the continent



The WHO African Regional Director presents WHO's 2020 to 2021 report in the African Region



Today the WHO Regional Director (RD) for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti presented her report on WHO's work in the African region to the Health Ministers at the Seventy-first Session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee (RC71) for Africa.

In her remarks Dr Moeti said, "COVID-19 will not be the last threat we face. It is a stark warning to invest in preparedness and resilience to safeguard health, development and security".

Dr Moeti highlighted the key achievements in the fight against COVID-19 and other health emergencies in the region. These include the procurement and deployment of 101 million items of personal protective equipment, 39 million test kits and 5 500 oxygen concentrators through the UN supply portal. Additional 51 oxygen plants were established, further increased from 68 to 119. Across the Member States, 31 million people (2% of the total population) are now fully vaccinated and 2000 experts deployed to countries.

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RC71 Delegates approve the 6th WHO Transformation Agenda report



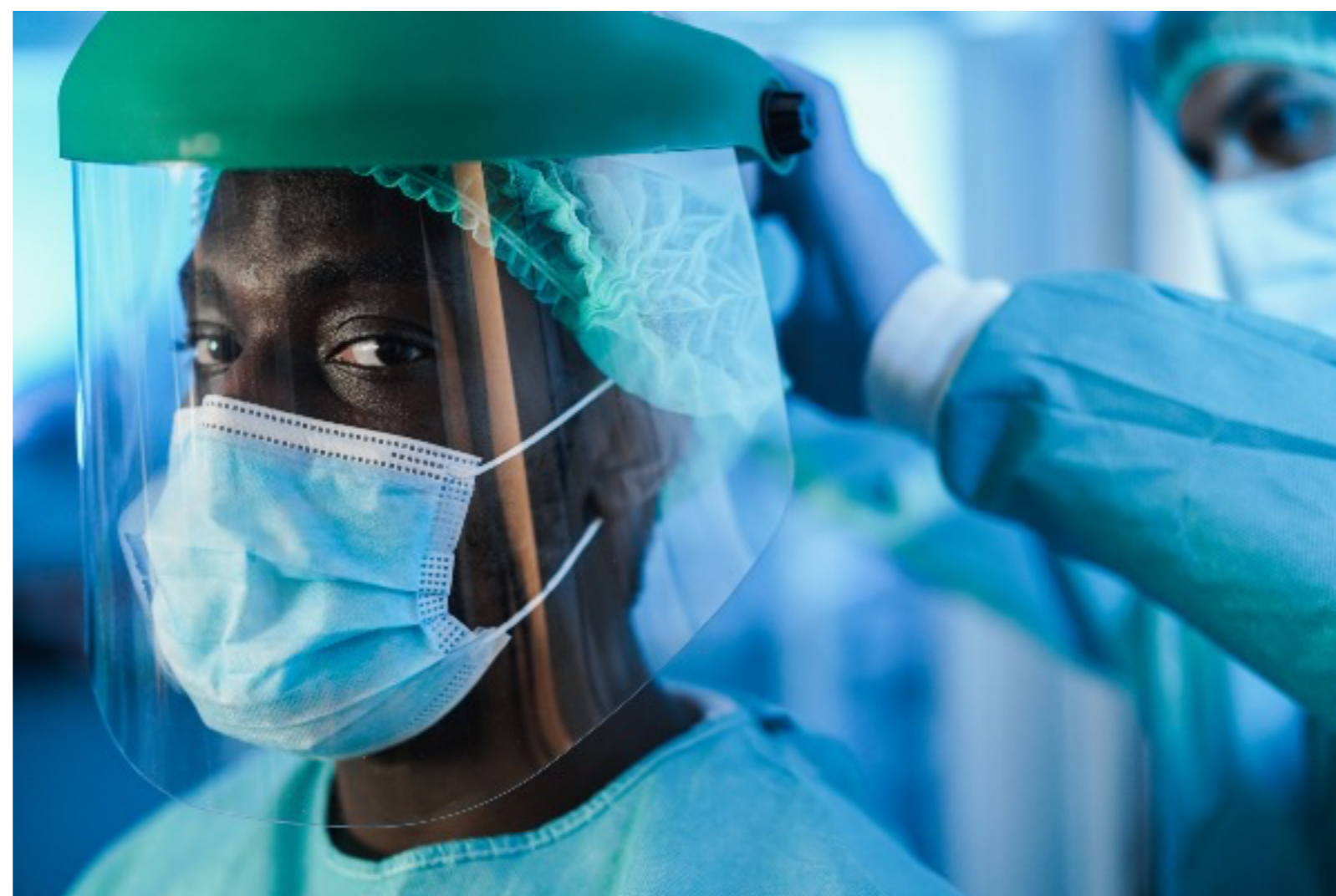
The country delegates to the 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa approved the 6th Progress Report on the WHO Transformation Agenda covering the period July 2020 to June 2021.

While presenting the report, Dr Zawaria Felicitas from the Office of the WHO Director for the African Region, mentioned that the pandemic of COVID-19 had disrupted the planned transformation activities.

The World Health Organization Secretariat's Transformation Agenda in the African Region 2015-2020 is a five-year roadmap that aims to transform the Organization into a more effective and accountable public health leader.

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African Health Ministers review COVID-19 fight, plan for future shocks



African health ministers met today to take stock of the continent's fight against COVID-19 as the pandemic continues to stretch health systems to breaking point in some countries and just 2% of all Africans are fully vaccinated against the virus.

Ministers assessed immediate actions needed to curb Africa's third wave, which saw COVID-19 cases in Africa surpass 7 million, reach a record weekly peak of over 250 000 in early July and drive up deaths to a record weekly peak of over 6400 in early August. The third wave has declined over the last five weeks since the peak in early July, but 16 countries are still experiencing a surge in new cases.

The special online session aimed to brief ministers on the state of COVID-19 across the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region, share approaches in tackling the pandemic and discuss how African countries can learn from COVID-19 and build more sustainable systems to prevent, detect and respond to future health emergencies.

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Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the RC71 Session



The Minister of Health of Togo, Prof. Moustafa Mijiyawa, was elected as Chairperson of the Seventy-first session of the Regional Committee for Africa. Mr Edwin Dikoloti, Minister of Health and Wellness, Botswana and Mr Edgar Manuel Azevedo Agosinho das Neves, Minister of Health, Sao Tome and Principe were elected first and second Vice-Chairperson, respectively.

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Brief overview of Togo

Togo is a West African country bordering Ghana, Benin and Burkina Faso, with a coastline on the Gulf of Guinea. It is a member of the United Nations Organization, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

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Places to Visit in Togo

The Alédjo Wildlife Reserve is located in the prefectures of Tchaooujio and Assoli. Straddling the Central and Kara regions, inscribed in a section of the Togo Mountains, the Alédjo Wildlife Reserve is a natural area which intervenes in the conservation of biological diversity, the protection of local geological and physiographical formations. It proudly exhibits an admirable sight of very varied vegetation, within its heart, a fault - the "Faille d'Alédjo" - resulting from the efforts of the men who knew how to make a motorized pass road through a voluminous natural rock.



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