



## **RC69 opens with a clarion call for health for all**



A commitment to primary health care and a determination that no one should be denied health care because they cannot afford it were resounding messages echoed by all speakers at the well-attended and colourful opening of RC69, which took place at the Kintele Conference Centre outside Brazzaville yesterday.



The President of the Republic of Congo, H.E. Denis Sassou-Nguesso, delivered a strong message of support for universal health care and urged the health ministers to ratify the Addis Ababa Call to Action for health financing that was agreed in February. He also called for sturdier health systems, concrete action on counterfeit medicine and universal access to health care.



The Congolese leader drew attention to ongoing health development initiatives in his country, including the work of the First Lady, Antoinette Sassou-Nguesso, who has fought for sickle cell awareness on a global scale. Her commitment and determination were instrumental in getting World Sickle Cell Day enacted by the United Nations. She also established a sickle cell centre in Brazzaville to study the disease.



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**Dr Moeti presents the report of WHO in the African Region 2018–2019**



In presenting her report for 2018–2019, WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti yesterday outlined the significant results achieved across the 47 Member States, in accordance with the Twelfth General Programme of Work (2014–2019). These results reflect the contributions of country offices, the Regional Office (including intercountry support teams) and WHO headquarters, in collaboration with the Member States and partners, in strengthening health development.

A major achievement is completion of the Functional Review as part of the Transformation Agenda by all countries, with 21 of them already implementing the review recommendations. This review, she said, will help country offices become fit for purpose in their support to Member States. A leadership training programme for senior managers has been rolled out.

The Regional Director pointed out that WHO headquarters has adopted some of the components of the Transformation Agenda model into the global Transformation Programme, which attests to its quality.

Dr Moeti highlighted that cutting-edge geographic information systems technology for polio work and other programmes developed within the Regional Office has been adopted by 42 Member States. She also drew attention to the 41 countries now certified Guinea worm-free. She reported that all Member States adopted the Treat All policy and that an estimated 16.3 million people living with HIV in Africa are now provided with life-saving antiretroviral therapy, regardless of their viral load. Progress continued towards reaching the End TB Strategy and a “high-burden to high-impact” country-led approach was launched in November 2018 to halt the rising number of malaria cases.

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## **Election of chairperson, vice chairpersons and rapporteurs**

The Regional Committee elected the following officers:

**Chairperson of RC69: Hon. Jacqueline Lydia Mikolo, Minister of Health, Republic of the Congo**

- **1st Vice-Chairman:** Hon. Magda Robalo Correira Silva, Minister of Public Health, Family and Social Cohesion, Guinea Bissau
- **2nd Vice-Chairman:** Hon. Kalumbi Shangula, Minister of Health and Social Services of Namibia

#### Rapporteurs:

- Dr Richard Lino Lako, Director Health Policy Planning and Budgeting and Head of delegation for South Sudan (English)
- Professor Cheikh Baye Mkheitiratt, Inspector General for Health and Head of delegation of Mauritania (French)
- Hon. Edgar Manuel Azevedo Agostinho das Neves, Minister of Health and Head of delegation for Sao Tome and Principe (Portuguese)

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## Day 2: Programme of Work

09:00–09:15	Agenda item 4 (cont'd)	Report of the Committee on Credentials
09:15–10:45	Agenda item 8	Nomination of the Regional Director (Interview session – closed meeting) Immediately followed by
10:45–12:15	Agenda Item 8	Nomination of the Regional Director (Voting - closed meeting)
12:15–12:45	Agenda Item 8	Nomination of the Regional Director (Open meeting)
12:45–14:30	Lunch break	
13:00–14:15	Side event	Contributing to Universal Health Coverage: Lessons from country experiences
14:30–15:15	Special Briefing on the Ebola Outbreak	
15:15–16:30	Agenda Item 7	Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 Results Framework: An Update (Document AFR/RC69/4)
16:30–17:00	Tea break	
17:00–17:45	Agenda item 9	Fourth Progress Report on the Implementation of the Transformation Agenda of the World Health Organization Secretariat in the African Region: 2015–2020 (Document AFR/RC69/5)
17:45	End of the day's session	
17:45–19:15	Side event	ESPEN side event on NTDs

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## Local markets in Brazzaville: An interesting experience





If you are looking for anything from a roadside pedicure to fabric for the most stylish of Congolese fashion, Poto-Poto is the place to go. This densely populated area was one of the first settlements established in Brazzaville in 1909, shortly after the city was founded. Its name reflects its position in a low-lying area of the city – Poto-Poto means watery mud, and anyone who has visited the area in the rainy season will know that the name remains very appropriate today.

One of the most popular Poto-Poto streets for locals and visitors alike is Avenue Mbaka, the road where the fabric traders and tailors have their establishments.

The array of colours and patterns can be overwhelming, but it is worth slowly scanning the shelves until something catches your eye and then visiting more than one shop to make sure that you get the best possible price.

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### **Important contacts during RC69**

- Regional Office reception: +242 05 770 02 02
  - Mr Odon MUSHOBOKWA, Head of Administrative Services: + 242 06 508 10 53
  - Mrs Marie Paule RUTABUZWA, Travel Manager: + 242 06 895 77 10
  - Mrs Enikö Andrea MANKAMPA TOTH, Conferences and Protocol : + 242 06 508 10 53
  - Mr Abdoulaye DOUMBIA, Regional Security Officer: + 242 06 508 10 87
  - Dr Roland RIZET, Regional Medical Officer: +242 06 660 68 08
  - Mr Charlemagne PISSARA, logistics and catering (RC69) : +242 06 603 51 09
  - Mr Issaka YODOMA, logistics and hotels (RC69): + 242 06 603 51 19
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### **Transportation**

Delegates will be transported from the recommended hotels to and from the venue of the meeting every morning. No shuttle service has been planned during lunch breaks; lunch will be served at the meeting venue.

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### **Registration and badges**

Participants are requested to register online and obtain the identification badge before the opening of the RC69 session. For identification and security reasons, the official badge must be worn by all delegates at all times during the RC69 session and during official social ceremonies. Distribution of badges will begin on Sunday, 18 August 2019 at the Regional Office. The online registration site is: <http://reg.unog.ch/e/RC69>

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## Hospitals and clinics

In case of a health emergency, please call the WHO doctor (Roland Rizet) listed above. However, there are several hospitals that you can visit directly:

- Centre Hospitalier et Universitaire de Brazzaville (CHUB):+ 242 22 282 61 49
  - Hôpital Central des Armées Pierre Mobengo:+ 242 06 654 91 32
  - Net Care (face SNDE, Avenue du Maréchal-Lyautey):+242 05 547 09 11
  - COGEMO:+242 06 665 60 46
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## Recommended hotels

The list of recommended hotels is attached to the Information Bulletin. It is strongly encouraged that you book only a hotel on this list for your safety and security and to benefit from the shuttle service provided by the organizers.

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## Exhibitions



Delegates are invited to visit the various exhibitions in and outside the tents at the back of the Regional Office building. There are several showcases of WHO work on diverse themes, including polio eradication, the Regional Transformation Agenda, universal health coverage, communicable and noncommunicable diseases and maternal and child health. Inside the middle tent is a photo exhibition documenting the successful strategies that Nigeria has taken up towards eliminating AIDS. Outside the tent is a display of photographs featuring WHO in Action.

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## Internet connection

There is open access Wi-Fi network called RC69 that is available to all delegates.

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## Coffee and lunch breaks

Morning and afternoon refreshments and lunch will be served to all delegates free of charge in the tents near the exhibition hall from Monday to Friday.

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## Banks and currency

The monetary unit in Congo is the CFA franc. The exchange rate with the euro is 656 CFA and 589 CFA to the US dollar. An Ecobank ATM is located in the corridor leading to conference room No. 2 in the Regional Office. The machine accepts Ecobank and visa cards from other banks and is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Other ATMs that operate 24 hours are available in the city.

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