

RC74 Journal English - Day 3

28 August 2024

The 74th SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

26 - 30 AUGUST 2024

RC74



Dr Faustine Engelbert Ndugulile elected new WHO Regional Director for Africa



Dr Faustine Engelbert Ndugulile of Tanzania has been nominated to be the next World Health Organization Regional Director for Africa.

Health Ministers from the 46 Countries that constitute the WHO African Region nominated him at the seventy-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa that took place in Brazzaville.

Dr Ndugulile is scheduled to take up his new post on 1 February 2025. He will succeed Dr Matshidiso Moeti, whose mandate ends on 31 January 2025 after she has served as the Regional Director for the past 10 years.

Speaking after his nomination, he promised to collaborate with every member state to tackle the health challenges in the African Region.

The Regional Director-elect emphasized the importance of promoting equity and human rights in achieving universal health coverage. He pledged to advance the health of the region's population.

"I'm truly honored and humbled to be elected as WHO Regional Director for Africa. I thank Member States for the trust shown in me. I promise to work with you and believe we can build a healthier Africa together."

In the past 18 years, Dr Ndugulile has worked as:

- Minister for Communication and Information Technology-December 2020 to September 2021
- Deputy Minister-Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children-October 2017 to May 2020
- Member of Parliament for Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam-October 2010 to date
- Resident Advisor -Johannesburg, South Africa-July 2007-September 2010
- Programme Manager- Blood Safety Programme- May 2004-June 2007
- Assistant Director of Diagnostic Services-Ministry of Health and Social Welfare-May 2004 – July 2006

Dr Ndugulile's nomination is subject to confirmation by WHO's Executive Board in January 2025.

Electing the new WHO Regional Director for Africa!



In the run-up to the elections, delegates from the 47 Member States gathered in the conference room to interview all the four candidates aspiring for the position of Regional Director for WHO in the African Region.

The session was chaired by Mr Gilbert Mokoki, the Chairman of the 74th session of the Regional Committee. 'I would like to remind you that all candidates for the post of Regional Director must satisfy certain conditions that would enable them to function effectively in this post,' he declared.

The WHO legal adviser reminded the delegates of the various procedures and regulations regarding the election, which was scheduled to take place behind closed doors. The interactive discussions and also served to reassure the delegates of the measures taken to guarantee the transparency and clarity of the process.

One of the highlights of the session was the announcement of the order in which the candidates would appear for the interview session, prior to the vote. In accordance with the rules, the Chairman drew lots in front of the assembly to determine the order in which the candidates would be interviewed.

According to the draw, Dr Ibrahima Socé Fall from Senegal went first, followed by Dr Boureima Hama Sambo from Niger, who then passed the microphone to Dr Richard Mihigo from Rwanda. Dr Faustine Engelbert Ndugulile from Tanzania rounded off the series of presentations and question-and-answer sessions that had begun nearly three hours earlier. 'It's time for a paradigm shift in health in Africa', he said. After the interviews, the voting that lasted over three hours was conducted behind closed doors attended by member state delegations assisted by essential staff from WHO Secretariat.

On a special note and to the sound of drums, Mr Gilbert Mokoki, Minister of Health of the Congo, welcomed the participants and thanked them for their commitment to prioritizing health while encouraging them to increase their contributions to health. 'Each Member State should be concerned about the sustainable financing of programs to support the fourteenth General Programme of Work 2025-2028. Through me, the Republic of Congo would like to inform you that the Congo's contribution will increase by 50%,' declared Gilbert Mokoki, also Chairman of this 74th Regional Committee.

WHO Africa Region raises over 200 million dollars in the first investment round



In a special event held under the theme, the 28th, in Brazzaville to ensure Africa's voice is heard in the global health arena and highlight the region's commitment to sustainable health financing and the well-being of its people, the WHO Regional Office for Africa raised 240 million dollars.

The remarkable achievement is a result of the landmark decision by the World Health Assembly adopted in May 2023 (WHA76-19), urging Member States and partners to fully finance the 14th General Programme of Work (GPW14) base budget segment for 2025-2028. This pivotal decision paved the way for the first-ever WHO Investment Round in Africa, held during the 74th session of the Regional Committee for Africa.

"Today, we witness the incredible commitment of the Member States and our partners to ensure sustainable financing for WHO so that together we can improve our initiatives to guarantee health for all people in our region. Thank you all very much, and we will continue to carry out investment rounds to ensure the resources are used to strengthen the health system in our region", said Pamela Drameh-Avognon, Coordinator of Partnership for WHO AFRO.

The high-level forum held under the theme **WHO Investment round: Making Africa's voice heard** provided a platform for all 47 African Member States, other member states, global philanthropic institutions, the private sector and non-state actors to discuss sustainable financing for WHO's work.

In her remarks, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, called this a historic day for Africa. She noted that "As African countries, we are here to be contributors and key protagonists in addressing our own health challenges. A strong, predictable, and sustainably financed WHO is essential for our region and the world to address the multiple health threats we face and support the prevention of diseases".

"The economic benefits of improving health outcomes, investments in WHO deliver a healthy return of US\$ 35 for every US\$ 1 invested. Thus, I encourage our Member States to continue investing in WHO in addition to benefiting from support from wealthier countries", said Dr Moeti.

[Read More](#)

Important contacts during RC74

Emergency call

- Police: **117**
- Fire brigade: **118**
- Hospitals and Clinics
 - Centre Hospitalier et Universitaire de Brazzaville (University Teaching Hospital – CHUB)
 - Hôpital Central des Armées Pierre Mobengo (Army Central Hospital)
 - Net Care (opposite SNDE, Avenue du Maréchal-Lyautey) **05 547 09 11**
 - COGEMO - **06 665 60 46**
 - Clinique Vérano - **06 704 02 03 / 05 539 39 36**

WHO Regional Office for Africa

- Mr Amadou Diouf, Logistics Team, RC74 - **+242 06 737 12 52**
- Ms Marie-Paule Rutabuzwa, Travel Services Officer - **+242 06 895 77 10**
- Ms Enikő Andrea Mankampa Toth, Conference and Protocol Officer **+242 06 508 10 53**
- Mr Abdoulaye Doumbia, Field Security Officer - **+242 06 508 10 87**
- Dr Henry Otim, Regional Staff Physician - **+242 06 603 51 09**
- Medical emergency line - +06 511 83 68.
- **Regional Office Web site: <http://www.afro.who.int>**

[Read More](#)