



**Welcome to a week of reflection, celebration and  
hope for a healthier Africa**

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It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Brazzaville, the city that has been my home for the past 15 years and is home to more than 500 WHO staff. The Regional Committee provides us with an annual opportunity to reflect on the progress, challenges and public health priorities across our 47 countries.

This meeting is taking place in a specific global and regional public health context, with encouraging developments in three main areas. The first is universal health coverage, and I am happy and encouraged to note that, across the region, momentum is building to reach our goals. The second issue is health security and protecting people from the impact of health emergencies, which is a challenge in the region, but good progress is being made.

And third is the action WHO is taking to improve our ways of working by consolidating programmatic and managerial reforms of the regional Transformation Agenda. We are also taking forward the global WHO Transformation Programme and are pleased that this is significantly informed by changes we have made in our African Region.

As a region, we have faced many challenges this year, not least of which is the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With Dr Tedros, I have visited our colleagues, who must be commended for their commitment to their work, sometimes in incredibly difficult circumstances.

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**RC69 kicks off**





The 69th session of the Regional Committee for Africa gathers health ministers from 47 African countries and other major stakeholders this week in Brazzaville to discuss and endorse regional policies, activities and financial plans to improve health outcomes for everyone on the continent. During the session, the nomination of the Regional Director for Africa will also take place.

More than 600 participants are attending this annual decision-making event, including WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti, senior government and health ministry officials, and representatives of UN agencies, civil society, academia, the private sector and bilateral and multilateral organizations as well as other development partners.

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### **Walking the talk: Delegates to RC69 engage in a 4-km trek**



As part of its Walk the Talk campaign, WHO organized a health and well-being march in Brazzaville on the eve of RC69, in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Congo. The early morning health walk on Sunday attracted hundreds of very cheerful participants, including the Prime Minister of Congo and members of the Government, the WHO Director-General and the Regional Director for Africa, RC69 delegates, representatives and staff of UN agencies and other partners, senior officials of the Congolese administration and Congolese local communities.



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## WHO promotes healthy diets at RC 69



All over the world, cultures and communities are built around shared food and dinner table conversations. This year, RC69 is carrying on this tradition.

Adelaide Onyango, the Nutrition Advisor based in the Regional Office, is determined to ensure that delegates not only eat the foods that are good for them but also have healthy conversations about the nutritional choices they make for themselves and their families.

“We want to remind people that food is good, especially if you are aware of what you are eating,” Dr Onyango explains. “So we have prepared some Conversation Notes – a different one for each day of the RC, which we hope will get delegates talking and also help them make knowledgeable food choices once they return home.”

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## The proud heritage and turbulent history of Brazzaville



Rivers have been the meeting points of civilizations for as long as humans have walked the earth, and the mighty Congo River – the second largest river in Africa – has seen its share of turbulent encounters. It was here in 1880 that two great cultures met – with Frenchman Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza signing a sovereignty treaty with Ilôo the First, the ruler of the local Bantu people, whose commercial network had been thriving in the area for 2 800 years.

The name Congo originated from a kingdom that appeared in the 13th or 14th century and whose capital was located in the north of the current Angola. The Mbuti Pygmy people had also been living in the area since time immemorial.

The transition to French colonial rule was not an easy one. The Congo basin was disputed territory, with King Leopold of Belgium claiming sovereignty over large areas on the south bank of the Congo River, including where Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), is now situated. From October 1880 to May 1882, Brazzaville was guarded from the Belgians

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### Important contacts during RC69

- Regional Office reception: +242 05 770 02 02
  - Mr Odon MUSHOBEKWA, 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
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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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