



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

AFR/RC61/PD/1

14 June 2011

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixty-first session

Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 29 August–2 September 2011

Provisional agenda item 8

**HEALTH FINANCING: SHARING EXPERIENCES IN SECURING FUNDING TO
ACHIEVE NATIONAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Panel discussion

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
BACKGROUND	1–4
OBJECTIVES	5
EXPECTED OUTCOMES	6
THE PANEL.....	7
PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION.....	8

BACKGROUND

1. Countries and partners have, over time, made a number of commitments: The 2001 Abuja Declaration; the 2005 Paris Declaration; the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action; etc. In 2006 the Regional Committee for Africa adopted Document AFR/RC56/10 entitled *Health Financing: A Strategy for the African Region* and its corresponding Resolution AFR/RC56/R5. In spite of this, per capita expenditure on health currently averages out at US\$ 14 (ranging from US\$ 0.38 to US\$ 380), an amount well below the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health recommendation of at least US\$ 34 for an essential package. At the same time the World Health Report 2010 on *Health Systems Financing: the path to universal coverage* indicates that 20% to 40% of health resources are wasted.

2. In order to address satisfactorily the issue of health financing, a harmonized policy dialogue based on coherent national strategies is necessary. Governance of the health sector must be transparent and accountable and, to the extent possible, be inclusive of all stakeholders (parliamentarians, private sector, donors, etc) in the process of planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and prioritization for health.

3. The panel discussion will be a forum to discuss and share experiences on how best to address the huge health financing needs in the African Region: what are the financial implications and funding requirements to meet the gap, attain national health development goals and sustain achievements; what have been the country experiences in securing funding; and what are the possible ways forward.

4. The panel discussion will build on the panel discussion on health financing that took place during the Fourth Joint Meeting of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in March 2011 in Addis Ababa. Among others, the meeting recommended that additional technical and ministerial deliberations on health and health financing, involving the Ministers of Health and the Ministers of Finance, be organized. The panel discussion will also lay the ground for further interactions between Ministers of Health and Ministers of Finance and other stakeholders in health financing to achieve national health development goals.

OBJECTIVES

5. The objectives of the panel discussion are:

- (a) to share country experiences in securing sufficient funding for strengthening health systems and increasing access to quality health care towards achieving the MDGs;
- (b) to share and disseminate the HHA report on “Investing in Health for Africa: the case for strengthening systems for better health outcomes”;
- (c) to discuss the main funding strategies and options for increasing fiscal space to strengthen national health systems in the African Region;
- (d) to propose ways of raising additional funds for the health sector and improving the efficiency of utilization of both domestic and external resources;
- (e) to make recommendations for improving health financing.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

6. The expected outcomes of the panel discussion are:
- (a) Country experiences on securing increased health financing for MDGs and universal access shared;
 - (b) The HHA report on “Investing in Health for Africa: the case for strengthening systems for better health outcomes” shared;
 - (c) Main funding strategies/mechanisms including options for increasing fiscal space discussed;
 - (d) Recommendations for improving health financing made;
 - (e) A Ministerial Statement on health financing, complementing Resolution AFR/RC56/R5 on health financing: a strategy for the African Region and E/ECA/CM/44/2AU/CAMEF/MIN/Resolution L7 on health financing, passed by the Member States.

THE PANEL

7. Proposed Chair, Moderator, Panelists and Technical Presenters.

- **Participants:**

Ministers of Health and 16 Ministers of Finance.

- **Chair:**

- Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs,
Director,
The Earth Institute, Columbia University, USA.

- **Vice-Chair:**

- Dr Abdoulie Janneh,
Executive Secretary,
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

- **Moderators:**

Regional Directors, UNICEF and UNFPA, African Region.

- **Key speakers:**

Dr David Evans, Director, Health Financing, World Health Organization.
Dr Agnès Soucat, Director, Human Development, African Development Bank.
Ms Rivta Reinikka, Director, Human Development, World Bank.

- **Panelists:**

1. Minister of Health of Nigeria
2. Minister of Health of Ghana

3. Minister of Health of Mali
4. Minister of Finance
5. Minister of Finance
6. Minister of Finance
7. Minister of Finance

• **Three technical presentations (10 minutes per presentation):**

1. Current financial challenges to meeting MDGs in the Region (World Health Organization).
2. “Investing in Health for Africa: the case for strengthening systems for better health outcomes” (African Development Bank).
3. Increasing fiscal space for health resources (World Bank).

8. **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION – 30 August 2011**

	Time allocated
(a) Opening remarks and introduction of Moderator/Panelists/Presenters by the Chair	09:00–09:10
(b) Three technical presentations: WHO, AfDB and WB	09:10–09:45
(c) Panelists’ remarks	09:45–10:30
(d) Tea break	10:30–11:00
(e) Discussion and questions from participants including answer(s) of panelists	11:00–12:00
(f) Recommendations and closing remarks	12:00–12:30