



REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

AFR/RC51/RT/4

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Provisional agenda item 9

GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Regional Committee approved the holding of Round Table discussions during its meetings to promote interaction and exchange of ideas and experiences among ministers of health, members of delegation and the Regional Committee secretariat.
2. This document provides explanatory notes for the Round Table discussions and proposes ways in which participants may deliberate and make recommendations.

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1. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1.1_ Three Round Tables will be held concurrently (each on one of three themes) and a report on the discussions will be presented to the plenary meeting of the Regional Committee under agenda item 12 (AFR/RC51/13).

1.2 Themes

Round Table 1 will be on the theme *Health systems: Improving performance* (document AFR/RC51/RT/1)

Chairman: Malawi
Alternate Chairman: Mali

Round Table 2 will be on the theme *Disease control: The role of social mobilization* (document AFR/RC51/RT/2)

Chairman: Mauritania
Alternate Chairman: Mauritius

Round Table 3 will be on the theme *Poverty reduction: The role of the health sector* (document AFR/RC51/RT/3)

Chairman: Mozambique
Alternate Chairman: Namibia

1.3 Nomination of rapporteurs

Each Round Table will nominate a rapporteur for its deliberations.

1.4 Participants

All delegates at the fifty-first session of the Regional Committee can participate in the Round Tables.

1.5 Working documents

The working documents for the three Round Tables are respectively: document AFR/RC51/RT/1 entitled "Health systems: Improving performance"; document AFR/RC51/RT/2 entitled "Disease control: The role of social mobilization"; and document AFR/RC51/RT/3 entitled "Poverty reduction: The role of the health sector".

2. METHOD OF WORK

2.1 Arrangement

To enable all participants to take active part in the Round Tables, there will be no plenary session of the Regional Committee at that time. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in all three languages at each of the Round Tables.

2.2 Chairmen

Each Round Table has a chairman and an alternate chairman both nominated by the fiftieth session of the Regional Committee meeting.

2.3 Work of the rapporteurs

In cooperation with the Regional Committee secretariat, the rapporteurs will take notes that will form the basis for writing the report of the Round Tables.

2.4 Discussions

A participant given the floor by the Chairman will address the meeting in his or her personal capacity and not on behalf of a country. However, participants can usefully draw upon the experiences of their respective countries during the discussions.

2.5 Resource persons

For each Round Table there will be a focal point from the Secretariat and a facilitator who is expert in the subject being discussed and identified from a Member State in the Region. The focal point and the facilitator will all act as resource persons at the Round Table.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Round Table discussions will focus on key areas identified in the working documents (AFR/RC51/RT/1, AFR/RC51/RT/2 and AFR/RC51/RT/3). Each working document sets out discussion points and expected outcomes specific to the theme in question, in order to guide participants in their approach to the discussions.

2. METHOD OF WORK

2.1 Step 1: The lessons learned are to be listed under the following headings: successes, failures, obstacles, potential facilitating factors.

2.1.1 Successes

Based on the experiences gathered in the participant's own country, what are the approaches or initiatives that have contributed to any positive outcomes?

2.1.2 Failures

Based on the experiences in the participant's own country, what are the approaches or initiatives that have hampered success in the areas identified.

2.1.3 Obstacles

What are the obstacles?

2.1.4 Potential facilitating factors

What are the potential factors that will facilitate effective implementation in the aforementioned areas in the participant's own country?

2.2 Step 2: What should be the way forward based on the lessons learned. What can the countries do differently and better? The following are some suggested areas for consideration: The role of: the community, the health sector, the health system, etc.

2.3 Step 3: Based on the results of Steps 1 and 2 above, and the issues raised in the working document, appropriate recommendations must be made for action by governments, WHO and development partners. Thereafter, recommendations must be made for the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes that are to be implemented. The recommendations must be realistic, feasible, practical and affordable.

ANNEX 2

PROGRAMME OF WORK

- Date:** Thursday, 30 August 2001
- Languages:** English, French and Portuguese
- 09.00 a.m. - Introductory remarks by the Chairman
- Introductory statement on the working documents by the Alternate Chairman
- Introductory statement on the Guidelines for the organization and conduct of the Round Tables by the facilitator
- 09.30 a.m. - Discussion
- 10.45 a.m.-11.15 a.m. **Tea break**
- 11.15 a.m.-1.00 p.m. - Discussions continue
- Recommendations and conclusions
- 1.00 p.m. - Commencement of the preparation of the report of the Round Tables.