



ORGANIZAÇÃO MUNDIAL DE SAÚDE
SEDE REGIONAL AFRICANA

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

AFR/RC50/TD/2

15 June 2000

Fiftieth session

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 28 August-2 September 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Provisional agenda item 10

**GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT
OF THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS**

Reducing maternal mortality: A Challenge for the 21st Century

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document has been prepared on the basis of information available in the Regional Office as well as the main orientations outlined in document AFR/RC50/TD/1. It provides, in Annex 1, explanatory notes for working groups, and proposes ways in which participants may deliberate and make recommendations.
2. It must be noted that the Technical Discussions do not form part of the Regional Committee. Participants will therefore be making contributions in their personal capacity.
3. The suggested composition of the three working groups is contained in Annex 2. Annex 3 sets out the programme of work.

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1. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

- 1.1 Chairman:** Professor Kelsey Atangamuerino Harrison (Nigeria)
Vice-Chairman: Dr Maria do Rosario de Fatima Madeira Rita (Angola)

1.2 Rapporteurs for the Technical Discussions

The working groups will each appoint a rapporteur: one English-speaking, one French-speaking and one Portuguese-speaking.

1.3 Participants

All delegates at the fiftieth session of the Regional Committee can participate in the Technical Discussions in their personal capacity.

1.4 Place of the Technical Discussions in the fiftieth session of the Regional Committee

The Technical Discussions do not form part of the Regional Committee's work. The Chairman of the Technical Discussions will, however, submit a report on the Technical Discussions to the Committee under Agenda item 10 (document AFR/RC50/13).

1.5 Working document

Document AFR/RC50/TD/1 entitled "**Reducing maternal mortality: A challenge for the 21st Century**" is the working document for the Technical Discussions.

2. METHOD OF WORK

2.1 Plenary meetings and working groups

To ensure the active participation of all concerned, the discussions will be conducted in three working groups: one English-speaking, one French-speaking and one trilingual. Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Portuguese will be provided for the plenary session and the trilingual group only.

2.2 Chairmen of the working groups

Participants in each of the working groups will elect a chairman.

2.3 Rapporteurs

Each working group will appoint a Rapporteur. In cooperation with the Secretariat, the Rapporteurs will take notes that will form the basis for drafting the report of the Technical Discussions.

2.4 Discussions

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

2.5 Resource persons

During the deliberations of the working groups, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Technical Discussions as well as members of the Secretariat will act as resource persons.

ANNEX 1

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR WORKING GROUPS

1. INTRODUCTION

The working groups will focus on key areas identified in the background document AFR/RC50/TD/1. All three groups will discuss the same set of proposed questions.

2. METHOD OF WORK

2.1 Step 1: Participate in nominating a chairman for your group.

2.2 Step 2: List lessons learned under the following headings: successes, failures, obstacles, potential facilitating factors in the implementation of the Safe Motherhood Initiative since 1987.

2.2.1 Successes

Based on your experiences in your country, what are the approaches or initiatives that have contributed to any positive outcomes?

2.2.2 Failures

Based on your experiences in your country, what are the approaches or initiatives that have hampered the implementation of Safe Motherhood programmes?

2.2.3 Obstacles

What are the obstacles to the effective reduction of maternal mortality in your country?

2.2.4 Potential facilitating factors

What are the potential factors facilitating the reduction of maternal mortality in your country?

2.3 Step 3: Define *the way forward* based on the lessons learned. What can the countries do differently and better so as to reduce maternal mortality? The following are some suggested areas for consideration: The role of: the community, the health sector, the health system, traditional birth attendants, adolescent health, family planning, skilled attendants, health education and promotion, facilities for transporting emergencies, availability of safe blood, etc.

- 2.4 Step 4:** Based on the results of Steps 2 and 3, and the issues raised in the background document, formulate appropriate *recommendations* for action by governments, WHO and development partners. Thereafter, make recommendations for the monitoring and evaluation of programmes that will be implemented to reduce maternal mortality at regional and country levels. The recommendations must be realistic, feasible, practical and affordable.

ANNEX 2

SUGGESTED COMPOSITION OF WORKING GROUPS

Group 1 (15 countries) <i>English, French, Portuguese</i>	Group 2 (16 countries) <i>English only</i>	Group 3 (15 countries) <i>French only</i>
Angola Benin Burundi Cameroon Cape Verde Central African Republic Ethiopia Guinea Guinea-Bissau Seychelles Mauritius Mozambique Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Zambia	Botswana Eritrea Ghana Gambia Lesotho Liberia Malawi Namibia Nigeria Kenya Sierra Leone South Africa Swaziland Tanzania Uganda Zimbabwe	Algeria Burkina Faso Chad Comores Congo Cote d'Ivoire Dem. Rep. of Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Madagascar Mali Mauritania Niger Senegal Togo
<i>Portuguese-speaking Rapporteur</i>	<i>English-speaking Rapporteur</i>	<i>French-speaking Rapporteur</i>
Dr. J. A. Kalilani (member of the Secretariat)	Dr. F. Zawaira (member of the Secretariat)	Dr. K. Mbaye (member of the Secretariat)

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Technical Discussions and members of the Secretariat coordinated by Professor Nasah will act as resource persons for all the working groups.

ANNEX 3

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Date: Thursday, 31 August 2000

Languages: English, French and Portuguese

8 a.m. - 9 a. m.

First plenary

- Introductory remarks by The Director, Division of Family and Reproductive Health, WHO/AFRO.
- Introduction of the working document (AFR/RC50/TD/1) by Professor K. A. Harrison, Chairman, Technical Discussions.
- Introduction of the Guidelines for the organization and conduct of the Technical Discussions by Dr M. do Rosario de Fatima Madeira Rita, Vice-Chairman, Technical Discussions.
- Questions and clarifications

9 a.m. - 9.15 a.m

- Formation of working groups

9.15 a.m. - 10.30.m

Group work (English, French and Trilingual)

- Election of group chairmen and Rapporteurs
- Discussion
- Recommendations

10.30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Tea break

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Group work continues

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Lunch

2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Second Plenary (closing session)

- Presentation and synthesis of group reports
- Recommendations

3.30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Preparation of the report of the Technical Discussions for presentation to the Regional Committee.

