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Sixty-second session
Luanda, Republic of Angola, 19–23 November 2012

Provisional agenda item 25

**TRADITIONAL MEDICINE: PRACTICES,
PRACTITIONERS AND PRODUCTS IN THE AFRICAN REGION**

PANEL DISCUSSION

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BACKGROUND

1. The Sixty-first session of the Regional Committee in 2011 discussed the progress report on the implementation of both the Regional Traditional Medicine Strategy¹ adopted in 2000 and the plan of action for the Decade of African Traditional Medicine (2001–2010).² It also endorsed the proposed next steps for action by stakeholders.³ The next steps were updating of the Regional Strategy; increasing allocation and mobilization of additional resources to effectively implement the Strategy particularly to conduct research; strengthening the regulation of traditional medicine products, practitioners and practices taking into consideration the Algiers Declaration⁴ and the second Decade of African Traditional Medicine (2011–2020).⁵ In addition, the Regional Committee proposed “Traditional Medicine: practices, practitioners and products in the African Region” as the topic for the Panel Discussion at the Sixty-second session of the Regional Committee.⁶
2. Several challenges have been encountered during the implementation of the current Regional Strategy. These include inadequate integration of traditional medicine in health systems, limited resources for research and development, limited regulations of traditional medicine. Other challenges include weak frameworks for effective collaboration among practitioners of traditional medicine, practitioners of conventional medicine and scientists; limited protection and preservation of indigenous knowledge.
3. This Panel Discussion seeks to share ideas on how to address some of the above challenges and provide guidance on matters related to practices, practitioners and products for incorporation in updating the Strategy.

OBJECTIVES

4. The objectives are:
 - (a) to discuss mechanisms to strengthen the regulation of traditional medicine practices, practitioners and products;
 - (b) to propose components for incorporation in updating the Traditional Medicine Strategy.

¹ WHO Regional Office for Africa, 2001 (Document AFR/RC50/9 and Resolution AFR/RC50/R3), Promoting the Role of Traditional Medicine in Health Systems: A Strategy for the African Region.

² WHO Regional Office for Africa (2011) Report on the review of the end of the African Union Decade of African traditional medicine (2001–2010). The Decade was declared by the African Summit of the Heads of State and Government in Lusaka in July 2001.

³ WHO Regional Office for Africa (2011). Progress Report on the Decade of African Traditional Medicine in the African Region (AFR/RC61/PD/1), Yamoussoukro, Cote d’Ivoire, 30 August–4 September.

⁴ WHO Regional Office for Africa (2008). The Algiers Declaration. Ministerial Conference on Research for Health in the African Region. Narrowing the knowledge gap to improve Africa’s health. 23–26 June 2008.

⁵ Fifth Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Health, Windhoek, Namibia, 17–21 April 2011. (CAMH/Min/Draft/Decl.(V).

⁶ WHO Regional Office for Africa (2011). Annex 4. Provisional agenda of the Sixty-second Session of the WHO Regional Committee. In: Final Report of the Sixty-First Session of the WHO Regional Committee, Yamoussoukro, Cote d’Ivoire, 29 August–4 September 2011 (Document, AFR/RC61/14).

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

5. The expected outcomes are:
 - (a) mechanisms for strengthening the regulation of traditional medicine practices, practitioners and products discussed;
 - (b) concrete recommendations for incorporation in revising the Traditional Medicine Strategy made.

THE PANEL

6. Proposed participants, Chair, Moderator, Panelists and Technical presenters.

6.1 Participants

Ministers of health and key speakers.

6.2 Chair

Minister of health (Angola).

6.3 Moderator

An independent or local media.

6.4 Four panelists

1. Professor Ange ABENA (Republic of Congo), Professor, *Université Marien N’Gouabi*.
2. Professor Drissa DIALLO (Mali), Director, Department of Traditional Medicine, National Public Health Research Institute and Member of WHO Regional Expert Committee on Traditional Medicine (Intellectual Property Rights).
3. Mrs Julia AYODELE (Nigeria), Traditional Medicine Practitioner (Practitioners).
4. Dr Kofi BUSIA, Traditional Medicine Professional Officer, West African Health Organization (Practices, Practitioners and Products).

6.5 Two keynote speakers for the technical presentations

1. Professor Abayomi SOFOWORA (Nigeria), Former Chairman, WHO Regional Expert Committee on Traditional Medicine (Regulation of African Traditional Medicine: Practices, Practitioners and Products).
2. Mr Emmanuel SACKAY [(African Regional Intellectual Property Organization, ARIPO) (Intellectual property rights and indigenous knowledge)].

ANNEX: Provisional Programme of the Panel Discussion

DAY 4: Thursday, 25 October 2012

	Time allotted 1:30 hours
(a) Opening remarks and introduction of Presenters and Panelists by the Chairperson	17:00–17:05 (5 minutes)
(b) Two key speakers for the technical presentations: Presentation 1. Regulation of African Traditional Medicine Practices, Practitioners and Products by Professor Abayomi SOFOWORA, Former Chairman, WHO Regional Expert Committee on Traditional Medicine, Nigeria Presentation 2. Preservation and protection of indigenous knowledge by Mr Emmanuel SACKEY, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)	17:05–17:25 (10 minutes each)
(c) Four Panelists' remarks (5 minutes each x 4)	17:25–17:45 (20 minutes)
(d) Discussion and questions/answer(s) and recommendations: Participants, presenters and panelists	17:45–18:25 (40 minutes)
(e) Closing remarks by Chairperson	18:25–18:30 (5 minutes)