

150th Session of the WHO Executive Board

Agenda Item 14 and sub-item 21.1: Standardization of medical devices nomenclature (Ref Doc: EB150/14) ; Global Strategies and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year: Global Strategies and plans of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property (Ref Doc: EB150/36)

Thank you Moderator, Thank you Chair

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Rwanda has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 47 Member States of the Africa Region, on the **Agenda Item 14 Standardization of medical devices nomenclature; and sub-item 21.1: Global Strategies and plans of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property;**
2. With regard to the **Standardization of medical devices nomenclature**, the WHO Africa Region commends the secretariat for the report on international classification, coding and nomenclature of medical devices as crucial tools for timely diagnoses, monitoring disease and well-being, providing treatment and ensuring good quality of life therefore contributing to the attainment of the triple billion targets;
3. The WHO Africa region appreciates the pertinence of this assignment which will facilitate the selection, regulation, assessment and management of medical devices, enabling them to reach the market faster, and increasing availability and resilience of supply in health care systems in support of better health care for all.
4. The WHO Africa region appreciates the great coordination and consultations that WHO has been conducting with the four existing nomenclature agencies namely, the European Medical Device Nomenclature, the Global Medical Devices Nomenclature, the Universal Medical Devices Nomenclature System and the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code.
5. There is regional increase in the number of Member States with authorities mandated to regulate medical devices, from 32% to 51% during the past five years. However, the implementation of robust regulatory systems for medical devices remains slow in Africa, and this impacts access to health products in the region.
6. The WHO Africa region, fully supports the consensus of not creating a new nomenclature and shares the understanding that WHO should continue to work with the four most widely used nomenclature systems towards full compliance with the WHO principles of governance, transparency and access, support mapping and harmonization.
7. WHO Africa region welcomes the report and its recommendations for consideration by the Executive Board and supports the related draft decision.

8. With regard to **the Global Strategies and plans of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property**;
9. WHO Africa region thanks the secretariat for the report on the progress made in the implementation of the overall programme review in order to allow Member States to consider whether the global strategies or action plans have fulfilled their mandates, should be extended and/or need to be adjusted;
10. The Africa Region notes the good progress made in all 8 priority actions which included prioritizing research and development needs, promoting research and development, building and improving research capacity, promoting transfer of technology, managing intellectual property to contribute to innovation and public health, improving delivery and access, promoting sustainable financing mechanisms and establishing a monitoring and accountability mechanism.
11. The average WHO/African Region health research barometer score improved from 43% in 2014 to 61% in 2018. Almost all the barometer scores for all the NHRS subfunctions improved, except for health research financing.
12. The WHO Africa Region adopted the strategy for scaling up health innovations. The Regional strategy is geared towards supporting the development and scaling up of locally appropriate innovative health solutions and supporting Member States to strengthen their innovation systems to make them responsive to the innovation needs of the African Region.
13. Member States of the WHO Africa Region will continue to play important roles by developing evidence-based policies, strategies and incentive mechanisms to support uptake and integration of promising innovations within national health systems, while addressing existing challenges.
14. WHO Africa region welcomes the report for consideration by the Executive Board and:
 - supports extension of the time frame of the plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property beyond 2022 especially noting the current context of global health threats such as COVID19 and other emergencies of public health concern.
 - recommends to the Executive Board to request the Secretariat to carry out a second survey in 2022 to provide further information on Member States' progress in the implementation of the review panel recommendations.

I thank you for your kind attention.