



## **EIGHTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF ECOWAS HEALTH MINISTERS**

16 June 2017, Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria

### **FINAL COMMUNIQUE**

1. The 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Assembly of Health Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was held at the ECOWAS Headquarters, Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria on 16 June, 2017.
2. The following Ministers and Heads of delegations of Member States attended the meeting:
  - **Republic of Benin**
  - **Burkina Faso**
  - **Republic of Cabo Verde**
  - **Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**
  - **Republic of The Gambia**
  - **Republic of Guinea**
  - **Republic of Guinea Bissau**
  - **Republic du Liberia**
  - **Republic of Mali**
  - **Republic of Niger**
  - **Federal Republic of Nigeria**
  - **Republic of Senegal**
  - **Republic of Sierra Leone**
  - **Togolese Republic**
3. The official opening ceremony for the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the ECOWAS Assembly of Health Ministers which was held on 16 June, 2017 at the ECOWAS Commission Headquarters in Abuja, was presided over by His Excellency, Prof. Yemi OSINBAJO, acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
4. The following dignitaries attended the ceremony: Presidents of Institutions, Members of Government, Political and Military Authorities of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Ministers of Health of ECOWAS Member States or their

Representatives, the Representative of the United Nations Agencies and Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps accredited to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Director General of WAHO, the Deputy Director General, Development Partners, Health Experts from the 15 ECOWAS Member countries, WAHO Country Liaison Officers and Staff of WAHO.

5. The following personalities successively presented statements during the opening ceremony:
  - The Health Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Isaac ADEWOLE;
  - The Vice-President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Edward SINGATEH;
  - The Director General of WAHO, Dr. Xavier CRESPIAN ;
  - The Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Togolese Republic, Chair of the ECOWAS Assembly of Health Ministers, Prof. Moustapha MIJIYAWA;
  - The Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H. E. Mr. Yemi OSINBAJO.
6. The bureau of the 18th Ordinary Assembly was constituted with the Togolese Republic as Chair, the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Senegal were selected as rapporteurs.
7. The ECOWAS Ministers of Health considered in detail the items on the Agenda and adopted it.
8. The Assembly of Health Ministers followed the presentation of the 2016 Annual WAHO report with keen interest, the contents of which were centred on the major health challenges in the region, the programme and financial performance of the Organisation within the context of the implementation of its 2016-2020 strategic plan, ongoing and projected partnerships as well as the challenges and prospects.
9. The Ministers underscored WAHO's commendable performance in the area of resource mobilisation for financing the activities of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.
10. The Ministers thanked the Director General of WAHO and his team for all the work they had done and for the convincing results achieved in many areas for the benefit of the health of people in West Africa, in spite of a challenging regional environment.
11. They commended the Director General for his dynamism and leadership. They urged him to continue with his efforts in view of the numerous health challenges faced by the region.
12. The Assembly of Health Ministers unanimously adopted the **2016 WAHO Annual Report**.
13. The Assembly of Health Ministers considered and unanimously adopted the Health Experts' Committee report.

14. The Assembly of Health Ministers, on the recommendation of the Health Experts' Committee adopted the **“Regional Strategic Plan on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Control, including five resolutions, namely:**

✚ **A resolution on: “Task Shifting/Sharing in the ECOWAS Region”.**

✚ **A resolution on: “The Use of Evidence in Developing Health Care Policies, Plans, Standards and Protocols in the ECOWAS Region”.**

✚ **A resolution on: “The West African Network of Research for Health Ethics Committees (WANEC)”.**

✚ **A resolution on: “The Designation and Networking of ECOWAS Regional Reference National Laboratories”.**

✚ **A resolution on: The Regional Framework for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) within the ECOWAS region”.**

15. The Ministers indicated their total availability to facilitate the implementation of adopted resolutions.

16. The Ministers commended the efforts of WAHO and the significant progress recorded in the operationalisation process of the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Disease Surveillance and Control.

17. The Ministers extended their special gratitude to the Community of development Partners for their continuous and invaluable technical and financial support towards improving public Health in the ECOWAS Region.

18. The Assembly of Ministers expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Local Organizing Committee, for the quality reception accorded to the Delegates of Countries and for all the facilities which helped in facilitating the 18th AHM Meeting.

19. The Health Ministers agreed on the next Ordinary Meeting of the Assembly of Health Ministers of ECOWAS at the Republic of Gambia during the first quarter of 2018.

20. The exact Date for the meeting will be communicated at a later date depending on the official State calendar of the designated host country.

Done in Abuja, 16th June 2017

Signed:

  
**Professor Moustapha MIJIYAWA**

**Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Togolese Republic.  
Current Chair of the ECOWAS Assembly of Health Ministers.**