



NINETEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEALTH MINISTERS OF ECOWAS

8 June 2018, Banjul Republic of THE GAMBIA

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Assembly of Health Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) took place at the KAIRABA BEACH HOTEL in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia, on 8 June, 2018.
2. The following Ministers and Heads of delegations attended the meeting :
 - Republic of Benin
 - Burkina Faso
 - Republic of Cabo Verde
 - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
 - Republic of The Gambia
 - Republic of Ghana
 - Republic of Guinea
 - Republic of Guinée Bissau
 - Republic of Liberia
 - Republic of Mali
 - Republic of Niger
 - Federal Republic of Nigeria
 - Republic of Senegal
 - Republic of Sierra Leone
 - Togolese Republic
3. The opening ceremony was presided over by Her Excellency, Mrs. Fatoumata JALLOW-TAMBAJANG, Vice-President of the Republic of The Gambia, representing His Excellency Mr. Adama BARROW, President of the Republic of The Gambia.
4. The following dignitaries attended the ceremony: Presidents of Institutions, Members of Government, the Ministers of Health of ECOWAS Member States or their Representatives, the Representative of the United Nations and Members

of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps accredited to the Republic of The Gambia, the Director-General of WAHO, Development Partners, Health Experts of the 15 ECOWAS member countries, WAHO/Country Liaison Officers and WAHO Staff members.

5. The following dignitaries successively delivered speeches at the opening ceremony :
 - **Mrs Saffie LOWE-CEESAY**, Honourable Minister of Health and Social Welfare of The Gambia;
 - **Dr. Tedros A. GHEBREYESUS**, Director General of WHO;
 - **Prof. Stanley OKOLO**, Director General of WAHO;
 - **Her Excellency, Mrs. Vabah Kazaku GAYFOR**, Special Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in the Republic of The Gambia;
 - **Prof. Moustafa MIJIYAWA**, Minister of Health and Social Welfare of the Togolese Republic, Chairman-in-Office of the Assembly of Health Ministers of ECOWAS;
 - Her Excellency **Mrs Fatoumata JALLOW-TAMBAJANG**, Vice-President of the Republic of The Gambia.
6. Prof. Moustafa MIJIYAWA, Minister of Health and Social Welfare of the Togolese Republic, Chairman-in-Office of the Assembly of Health Ministers of ECOWAS.
7. The Assembly of Ministers congratulated the new WAHO Director General, Prof. Stanley OKOLO on his appointment at the helm of the Institution and wished him every success in his new position.
8. ECOWAS Health Ministers reviewed in detail the items on the agenda of their meeting.
9. The Health Ministers followed the presentation of the 2017 Annual WAHO report with keen interest, the contents of which were centred on the 2017 regional health update, the programme and financial performance of the Organisation in connection with the implementation of its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, and the new WAHO Director General's vision to address major health challenges in the region.
10. The Ministers underscored WAHO's commendable performance in the implementation of its 2017 Work Plan in line with its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.
11. 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.
12. The Assembly of Health Ministers unanimously adopted the 2017 WAHO Annual Report.
13. The Assembly of Health Ministers was briefed on the main directions stemming from the study on: "The Intervention Axes and Recommendations from the

22. The Health Ministers agreed on the next Ordinary Meeting of the Assembly of Health Ministers of ECOWAS in the Republic of Benin, during the first quarter of 2019.

23. The exact Date for the meeting will be communicated at a later date following consultation between WAHO Director General and Authorities of Benin.

Done at Banjul, 8th June 2018

Signed:



Professor Moustafa MIJIYAWA
Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Togolese Republic
Current Chair of the ECOWAS Assembly of Health Ministers