



As of 27 May 2009

**ECOSOC Africa Regional Ministerial Meeting on eHealth – use of information and communication technology for health**

**10-11 June 2009  
Accra, Ghana**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**Day One**

**8:30-9:30 Registration**

**9:30-10:20 Opening Session**

**Welcoming remarks:**

**The Vice President of the Republic of Ghana H.E. John Mahama (tbc)**

**Opening remarks:**

**H.E. Sylvie Lucas, President, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)**

**Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (tbc)**

**Dr. Abdelhay Mechbal, Director, ADG/IER, World Health Organization (WHO)**

**10:20-10:30 Tea Break**

**10:30-13:00 Panel 1: The challenges and sustainability of eHealth in Africa**

**Panelists:**

- **Mr Brahim Sanou, ITU Regional Representative for Africa, Head of the Connect Africa initiative, Addis Ababa;**
- **Professor S. Yunkap Kwankam, Executive Director, International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth;**
- **Professor Steinar Pedersen, Director Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine, University Hospital of North Norway, WHO Collaborating Centre**
- **Mr Stephen Lieber, President HIMSS.**

**Moderator: Dr Adesina Iluyemi, Chair, Global Health Commission-NEPAD Council**

**For discussion:**

- **Health systems challenges hampering eHealth mainstreaming in Africa;**
- **Information and communication infrastructure in Africa and the uptake of**

**eHealth;**

- **Where are the needs of people?**
- **eHealth pilots and initiatives: how to evaluate, what have we learned, when should they scale up, and how?**

**13:00-14:00 Lunch Break**

**14:00-14:30 Address by Professor Jeffery Sachs (via video-link) (tbc)**

**14:30-16:00 Panel 2: eHealth governance, policies, strategies and quality measures**

**Panelists:**

- **Dr Gunther Eysenbach, Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto, Canada;**
- **Dr Maurice Mars, Professor of TeleHealth, Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine, South Africa.**
- **Dr Joseph Amuzu, Adviser, Social Transformation Programmes Division STPD**
- **Dr Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Director Knowledge Management and Sharing, WHO/HQ**

**Moderator: Dr Emil Jones Asamoah-Odei, Coordinator, Knowledge Management and Sharing, WHO/AFRO**

**For discussion**

- **National policy and strategy development: who are the stakeholders, what are priorities?;**
- **Standardization and interoperability: what if we don't have it?**
- **Legal, ethical, legislative and regulatory frameworks for eHealth implementation: are we there?**
- **Quality and safety of health information on the Internet: who decides and how?**
- **Quality and safety of health information on the Internet: e role of standards, consumer education and media literacy**
- **Where is the evidence and information for eHealth strategy development and planning?**

**16:00-16:15 Tea Break**

**16:15-18:30 Panel 3: Public health informatics**

**Panelists:**

- **Dr Garance Upham, Editor, Safe Observer International;**
- **Dr Maged M. Kamel Boulos, Professor of Health informatics University of Plymouth, UK;**
- **Dr Ramata Molo Thioune, Administratrice de Programmes Principal/Senior Program Officer, IDRC**
- **Dr Heide Richter-Airijoki, Principal Adviser Child Survival and Development- UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa,**

## **Dakar, Senegal**

- **Moderator: Mr Brahima Sanou, ITU Regional Representative for Africa, Head of the Connect Africa initiative, Addis Ababa**

### **For discussion**

- **eHealth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;**
- **eHealth and the renewal of the Primary Health Care;**
- **ICT for disease surveillance and epidemiology;**
- **ICT for data management and reporting;**
- **Electronic health records as a source of public health data;**
- **Pandemic alert and public awareness;**
- **Health mapping and Geographic Information Systems;**
- **Networking and data mining.**

**18:30**            **End of day one**

## **Day Two**

**9:00-10:30**      **Panel 4: eHealth and the people**

### **Panelists:**

- **Professor Antoine Geissbuhler, President Elect, IMIA;**
- **Dr Hashem El Deeb, Director Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt;**
- **Dr Ziedan Abdo Zeidan, Secretary General, Sudan National Medical Specialization Board**
- **Professor Riadh Gouider, Director of Telemedicine Centre, Medical College, Tunisia**

**Moderator Mr. Getachew Sahlu, Programme Manager, Africa Health Infoway, WHO/HQ**

### **For discussion**

- **eLearning: Building capacity of health workers (knowledge and skills);**
- **eLearning: health education, literacy and promotion;**
- **Health informatics education: building a critical mass of eHealth experts;**
- **eHealth awareness for managers, planners and decision makers.**

**10:30-10:45**      **Tea Break**

**10:45-12:15 Panel 5: Economics, financing and partnerships in eHealth**

**Panelists:**

- **Dr Peter Drury, Director, Connected Health, Emerging Markets Internet Business Solutions Group, CISCO**
- **Mr Maurice Long, International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM)**
- **Mr Rakesh Kumar Upadhyay., Chairman & Managing Director. TCIL, India**

**Moderator: Mr Denis Gilhooly, Principal Advisor UN Office for Partnerships**

**For discussion**

- **Moving eHealth from fragmentation to integration: is this a cost containment option?**
- **Budgeting and financing of eHealth as part of national health systems: what are the possibilities and options;**
- **Public private partnerships in eHealth: the role of the private sector in building eHealth infrastructure and capacity;**
- **Economic value of eHealth and impact on health (return on investment analysis);**
- **Funding opportunities for eHealth projects (UN agencies, European Commission, African Union, Foundations, Trust and other philanthropies).**

**12:15-13:15 Lunch Break**

**13:15-14:45 Panel 6: mHealth: mobile communication for health**

**Panelists:**

- **Dr Patricia N. Mechael, mHealth and Telemedicine Advisor, New York;**
- **Ms Claire Thwaites, UN/Vodafone Foundation Partnership, New York;**
- **Dr Adesina Iluyemi, Chair, Global Health Commission-NEPAD Council**

**Moderator: Dr Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Director Knowledge Management and Sharing, WHO/HQ**

**For discussion**

- **What is the situation and where is the potential?**
- **Mobile communication technologies and health applications: experience from the field;**
- **Convergence of mobile computing and mobile communication technologies;**
- **mHealth for healthcare professionals;**
- **mHealth for the masses;**
- **Texting for health;**

- **Portable health and medical books;**
- **Mobile vs. low band width internet: which can reach more people?**

**14:45-16:00**      **Presentations of best practices and new initiatives on e-Health**

- **Africa Health Infoway project, Mr Getachew Sahlu, Programme Manager, WHO**
- **Rapid SMS for malaria, Ministry of Health, Nigeria - (tbc)**

**16:00-16:30**      **Break and preparation for final session**

**16:30-17:30**      **Reports of session moderators:**

- 1) **The challenges and sustainability of eHealth in Africa**
- 2) **eHealth governance**
- 3) **Public health informatics**
- 4) **eHealth and the people**
- 5) **Economics, funding and partnerships in eHealth**
- 6) **mHealth: mobile communication for health**

**Chair: H.E. Sylvie Lucas, President, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**17:30-18:00**      **Closing Session**

**Closing statements:**

**Chair: H.E. Dr. George Yankey, Minister of Health, Minister of Health, Ghana (tbc)**

**H.E. Sylvie Lucas, President, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)**

**Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (tbc)**

**Dr. Abdelhay Mechbal, Director, ADG/IER, World Health Organization (WHO)**

**18:00**              **Meeting adjourns**