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 Brahima 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**