

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

RÉPUBLIQUE ALGÉRIENNE DÉMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

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**64th session of World Health Assembly
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Commission A

« Future financing for WHO »

**Draft statement of the Algerian delegation
on behalf of the 46 Member States of the African Région**

Geneva, 17 May 2011

**Mr. President,
Madam Director-General,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,**

The Algerian delegation is pleased to take the floor on behalf of the 46 Member States of the African Region of WHO on agenda item 11 concerning the **"future financing for WHO "**.

We highly value the consultation process initiated by the very distinguished Director General in this context. This has helped to ensure a good preparation for our ongoing discussions on this important issue within the Governing bodies of the Organization.

The global economic and financial crisis has had a negative impact on the Organization's capacity to ensure adequate funding for its growing activities. Introducing reforms in WHO becomes therefore an urgency as stated by our Director general, Dr. Chan, to ensure a higher degree of predictability and greater stability of funding.

This urgency has been made more acute by the decision of the Member States to introduce a drastic reduction in the budget 2012-2013 during the 128th session of the Executive board. The Director General has consistently been calling the attention of Member States to take the necessary action and tackle the situation which, if it persists, could seriously undermine the global governance of health issues.

The proposed reforms of the WHO are also timely to reinvigorate the work of our Organization as the world's leading technical authority on health, in light of its rich harvest of experience. We are indeed in need of a clearer definition of the role of WHO in the context of the presence of myriad challenges, old and new, as well as of the growing number of organizations working on health issues.

It is obvious that the Organization should constantly seek and explore new paths to improve its effectiveness, efficiency and its capacity of response in a timely manner and therefore to meet the expectations of the Member States.

The African Region adheres to the expected outcome of the proposed reforms as highlighted in the Director General's report and that aim to achieve greater coherence in global health, better health results and are geared to the pursuit of excellence.

We share such a vision of reforms as it encompasses both ambition and realism and aims at improving governance within the Organization.

We take note of the concrete proposals made in the report particularly those suggesting to hold a multi-stakeholder forum for global health, to initiate an independent evaluation of WHO and to refocus the priorities of the Organization.

The function of technical cooperation remains of great relevance and is important in particular for African Member States to develop national capacities. This function is critical in the context of the intensification of efforts towards the achievement of MDGs in the African Region.

Member States of the African Region are the most affected by big killer infectious diseases namely HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. However, recent reductions in budgets allocated have seriously affected the programs dedicated to these diseases in the African Region. We would like to emphasize that HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis programs are priority programs in the African Region.

Member States of the African Region would like to see greater flexibility in the allocation of resources of the Organization to Regions and country offices taking into account their specific context in order to maximize the efficiency of interventions and thus to achieve better results.

The African Region would like to reaffirm the importance it attaches to the supporting role of WHO in the implementation of public health priorities at national level. This role remains vital for the countries of the Region in their effort to attain the MDGs. It should be vigorously pursued despite the present financial constraints.

Reforms aimed at improving the quality of funding should not mean reducing the commitment of WHO in favor of African countries in particular and more generally, of developing countries. Such reforms should also enhance the engagement with developing partners in the field of health.

We agree that the distinction between developed, developing and emerging economies becomes blurred in today's world. However, the gap in development between countries is a reality that should be taken into account in any burden sharing initiative.

Mr. President,

The governance of global health for which the central role of WHO has been recognized relates to health safety, humanitarian action and health-development. This obviously calls for a strengthening of WHO's capacity to coordinate, particularly the area of surveillance and response to threats to health and in terms of humanitarian action in emergency situations.

This also requires the strengthening of the capacity of the Organization to ensure the implementation of development programs related to health.

It is essential that the reform process be State-driven in all its aspects. It should not, in any way, undermine the exclusive role of the decision-making bodies of the Organization in the field of normative action and standard-setting, which should remain one of the WHO's core functions.

In addition, the African Region wishes to stress the need for the reform process to include the following elements:

- Fully involving Member States at all stages of the proposed reform process.
- Establishing a more detailed timetable for implementation of the reform than that included in that included in the annex to Doc/A64/4.
- Strengthening planning budgeting and regular evaluation to improve governance.
- Avoiding duplication with other international organizations working in the field of health.
- Strengthening national capacities for expertise to improve the quality of policies and national health plans.
- Strengthening the technical support of WHO at country level.
- Assisting Member States to ensure coordination with development partners.
- Establishing priorities within the programs based on disease burden, taking into consideration the requests of Member States.
- Conducting structure reforms at country office level in close collaboration with Member States concerned.
- Implementing a human resources policy that combines skills and balance and equity between regions.
- Elaborating a policy for mobilizing resources that would more effectively trigger the interest of traditional donors and attract new donors as well as increase unearmarked voluntary contributions.

We will continue to follow closely the ongoing discussions on the future financing of WHO as proposed by the Director General although we would have hoped that our discussions could have had a much broader scope to include other areas where reforms are also needed to improve the functioning of the Organization.

We wish every success to our deliberations and thank you for your kind attention.