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CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS  
OF HEALTH CAMH/MIN/Draft/Rapt. Rpt. (IV)  
3, Fourth Ordinary Session  
2' 22 - 30 April, 1991  
Mbabane , Swaz i land  
DRAFT RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

DRAFT RAPPOREUR'S REPORT OF THE FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF HEALTH

I. OPENING

The Fourth Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health was held on Monday 29 April, 1991, at 8:25 a.m. in Mbabane, Swaziland, under the Chairmanship of H. E. the Minister of Health of Uganda, in the presence of His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

2. The Conference also heard statements by:

(1) WHO Regional Director for Africa (AFRO);

(ii) WHO Director-General

(iii) OAU Assistant Secretary-General;

(iv) His Majesty King Mswati III, who officially opened the Fourth Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health.

3. Copies of the statements are attached to this report.

4. All the speakers stressed a number of issues including the timeliness of holding the meeting as it coincided with the Decade for Child Survival, Protection and Development and the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the linkage of the health sector to development and the need for Member States to accord health sector top priority.

5. The first three speakers also thanked the King, Government and people of the Kingdom of Swaziland for hosting the Meeting, the excellent arrangements made and measures to ensure the success of the Meeting and for the generosity and the typically African hospitality extended to the delegations.

II. ATTENDANCE

6. The following Member States attended the Meeting:

1. Algeria 16. Mozambique
2. Benin 17. Namibia
- giVWA TBh Burundi 18. Niger
4. Burkina Faso 19. Nigeria
5. Cameroon 20. Rwanda
6. Central African Republic 21. Sao Tome
7. Cote d'Ivoire 22. Seychelles
8. Egypt 23. Sudan
9. Gabon 24. "Swaziland
10. Guinea 25. Tanzania
11. Guinea Bissau 26. Tunisia
12. Lesotho 27. Chad
13. Malawi 28. Uganda
14. Mali 29. Zambia
15. Mauritania 30. Zimbabwe

7. The following UN Specialized Agencies were represented at the Session: WHO, UNICEF

8. The following non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations attended the Meeting: ALERT, IAC and the World Bank.

9. The Liberation Movements represented at the Session were: ANC and PAC.

III. Election of Officers

10. The Meeting elected its Bureau as follows:

Chairman - Swaziland

First Vice-Chairman - Algeria

Second Vice-Chairman - Gabon

Third Vice-Chairman - Benin

Rapporteur - Sudan

11. The new Chairman welcomed the delegates and thanked them for electing her. She also thanked the out-going bureau for the excellent work carried out. She requested the delegates to cooperate with her so as to accomplish the task ahead of the meeting.

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

12. The Meeting adopted the following Agenda:

Opening of the Meeting

Election of Officers

Adoption of the Agenda

Organization of Work

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Review of the Experts' Report and Adoption of the Draft

Resolutions

6. Matters of interest to Member States on the Provisional Agenda of the Forty-fourth Session of the World Health Assembly

7. Any Other Business

8. Date and Venue of the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health

9. Adoption of the Report and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Ministers of Health.

V. Organization of Work

13. The Meeting adopted the following working hours:

Morning Session - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Afternoon Session - 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

14. It was decided to have an extra-session, on 29 April 1991, from

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9:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. to expediate discussion of the Agenda items.

VI. Statements of Observers

15. The Meeting was addressed by representatives from PAC and IAC.

Addresses are attached to this Report.

Item 5 of the Agenda: Review of the Exgerts Regort and Adogtion  
of the Draft Resolutions

16. The Meeting took note of Document No. CAMH/EXP/RPT. (IV) entitled  
"Report of the Expert's Meeting" and made comments on the following  
paragraphs of the Report.

Paragraph 26

17. On raising questions by two delegations on the function of the  
OAU Health Bureau, its structure and relationship with the relevant UN  
Systems, a representative of the Secretariat informed the Meeting that  
it is a one-man Division of a Department in the OAU General Secretariat.  
Its manpower and resources should be strengthened in order to carry out  
its mandate as expected.

Paragraph 39

18. On the question of hazardous waste containhad in paragraph 39 of  
the report, a delegation enquired on the ratification status of the Bamako  
Convention. A Member of the Secretariat clarified that so far, 15P2?::::;&Lbb  
countries signed the Convention, one Member State ratified it and '332VJL  
more ratifications are required for the Convention to become operational.  
The Convention will also be available during the meetings of the OAU Council  
of Ministers and Heads of State and Government in Abuja for securing the  
necessary ratification.

19. Ode delegation stressed inter-state cooperation to be coordinated by the OAU General Secretariat.

Paragraghs 59 - 69

20. The World Bank representative reviewed the activitie of the Bank . ' g

in Africa and stressed the point that the Bank's pn\$izgvgas meant to help African Countries in establishing health programmes and policies in an integrated manner. (lib mm M W M W W %W

21. Several delegations reacted to this part of the report by highlighting the following:

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Paragraghs 70 - 82

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22. The importance of this section was outlined by several delegates, and that this Fund should be subscribed to, only through voluntary contributions as a reflection of self-reliance.

Paragraghs 85 - 102

23. The unpredictable resurgence of malaria epidemics and the persistantly prevai llg high rate of mortality and morbidity among the population were stg:&%%d"%%fheveral delegates. 0V3 (RkkxAQ. var

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24. An expose from the Director of the Global Bureau for AIDS was made, outlining the recent bleak picture portrayed by the current statistics. Some Member States gave a detailed outline in their experience with AIDS

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control. Among other things, AIDS was found to be a social problem as well as a medical one and called for multi- sectoral approach in its management. ;WR:2:XEggsenfgekfrob kem of Al Dg orphans was also stressed .4/gem

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Par 21 - 125

25. The establishment of a central pool for the purchase of drugs was introduced by one delegation. The Secretariat was asked to coordinate . with the Ministry of Health of that delegation. The consensus of several members of the meeting was that essential drugs was a complicated issue.

Paragraphs 126 - 129

26. Several delegates expressed the view of formulating a directory of volunteer experts from Member States, so as to facilitate easy contact.

Paragraphs 130 - 135

27. The importance of screw worm fly as a killer fly of human beings, cattle and wild life was stressed. Recommendations were made for a regional strategy for monitoring and controlling the screw worm fly in cooperation . with international organisations like the FAO.

Agenda Item 6: Matters of Interest to Member States on the Provisional Agenda of the Fourteenth Session of the World Health Assembly

28. The Chairman introduced the Agenda item and referred the delegations to the decision of the Experts to defer the consideration of that item to the Meeting of Ministers.

29. After reaction from a delegate on the criteria for selection of

those matters of "interest", the representative of the Secretary-General reminded delegations of the regularity of that agenda item at previous Conferenses of African Health Ministers as a means of forging a common African position on matters that are to be discussed at the World Health Assembly.

30. At that juncture, the WHO Regional Director for Africa gave a brief overview of the items of interest on the Draft Agenda, even though he agreed that all items on the Draft Agenda affect Africa, even though sometimes some are of special interest as those discussed during the Third Conference of African Ministers of Health in Kampala. He also clarified . a few of the items and reminded delegations, those in arrears to pay and that AFRO is designing a method of assisting those Member States in arrears.

Agenda Item 7: An: Other Business

31. The Conference heard a presentation from the delegation of Chad on the Socio-political and Natural Disasters that the country and people are going through now, that have disrupted the economy and food production in the country. Hence Chad is pleading for a "Resolution on Drought, Famine and Food Situation in Chad" for which the delegation expected full support.

32. In the ensuing debate, delegations supported Chad's plea and requested the Secretariat to support through her Special Emergency Fund . for Drought and Famine in Africa. The representative of the Secretary-General reminded distinguished delegates that the Fund is there only on paper with no finances because there was no replenishing from Member States after the initial subscription.

33. The Meeting noted Chad's concern and directed the Secretariat to draft a resolution on the problem facing Chad.

34. On the issue of WHO document that has been circulated to about 30 Member States and which was originally introduced by Uganda in the morning session and referred to \_by Namibia in the evening, it was decided that the document goes through the OAU procedure and that African Ministers



of Health should discuss it at the Africa Club in Geneva when attending the World Health Assembly.

Agenda Item 8: Date and Venue of the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health.

35. There being no Member State proposing to host the Meeting after Member States were reminded of Rule 8 (a) and II of the Rules and Regulations of the Conference of African Ministers of Health, a delegation proposed Addis Ababa, which is automatically mentioned in Rule 11 of the said document.