

AFCFTA-ANCHORED PHARMA INITIATIVE

Establishment of Regional Pooled Procurement Platform and Regulatory Affairs Database

24-25 February 2022
Movenpick Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya (Hybrid)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

As part of its mandate to deliver on Agenda 2063 and SDGs and operationizing of the African Continental Free Area (AfCFTA) by translating ideas into action and in line with its commitment that private sector and public sector dialogue yields tangible outcomes, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and its partners (IGAD, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, UN Family) are facilitating the establishment and operationalizing the AfCFTA-anchored Pharmaceutical Initiative (Pharma Initiative)'s Centralized Pooled Procurement Mechanism (CPPM) on the Africa Medical Suppliers Platform (AMSP). Further, the high-level Stakeholders Meeting to deliberate on regional database and regulatory affairs for select maternal, neonatal and child health medicines will be held on 24-25 February 2022, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Pharma Initiative address socio-economic related challenges facing African member countries relating to high costs of medicines and promote the creation of fiscal space to the African Governments given rising government debts intensified by COVID-19. The Initiative takes on a three strand approach: facilitation and advocacy of local production of maternal and child care medicines and products; pooled procurement of same in Small Islands States and countries that include Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, Djibouti, Eritrea, Rwanda and IGAD anchored by Ethiopia and

Kenya; and ensuring quality standards of medicines and products with the support of the AUC Agencies.

The AfCFTA-anchored Pharmaceutical Initiative was initially launched in November 2019 by ECA and partners in select 10 pilot African countries of Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, Djibouti, Eritrea, Rwanda, and Sudan, as well as Kenya and Ethiopia (anchor states). The Initiative is a contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the African Union's Agenda 2063 aspirations and operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) by ensuring that private and public sector collaborations shape the outcomes in Africa's health sector.

The High level Meeting will focus on seeking the buy-in of respective stakeholders on the establishment of the pilot countries regional database and its integration on the Africa Medical Suppliers Platform (AMSP). In addition, issues relating to regulatory affairs for select maternal, neonatal and child health medicines for the pilot countries as well as the Initiative's partnerships, investment and communication strategies will be discussed. Specifically, the objectives of the meeting are the following:



Objectives

The overall objective of this AfCFTA-anchored Pharmaceutical Initiative High-Level Stakeholders Meeting is to seek the buy-in and political will of relevant and targeted stakeholders with the aim of seeking their buy-in on the operationalization of CPPM on the AMSP. Furthermore, the High-Level Stakeholders Meeting aims at facilitating a platform for concrete actions that will improve access to affordable essential medicines leveraging on technology by harnessing high-level political commitment and workable solutions. Additionally, the Meeting further seeks to provide an opportunity to share lessons learned from other Initiative, share knowledge, actively engage and network with intra-African actors within the health sector for the successful implementation of the Initiative for the attainment of SDGs and Agenda 2063 aspirations.

More specifically, the Stakeholder Meeting is expected to:

- Harness high-level political commitment and workable solutions to operationalize the Centralized Pooled Procurement Mechanism on Africom Medicines Suppliers Platform (AMSP),
- Consider the modus operandi for setting up and operationalization of the Regional Database under the Centralized Pooled Procurement Mechanism (CPPM) on the Africa Medical Suppliers Platform (AMSP) for select maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) pharmaceuticals and related products,
- Consider data collection tools and trainings for medicines regulatory harmonization,
- AfCFTA-anchored Pharma Initiative partnership, investment and communications strategies,
- Strengthen collaborations and networking among relevant policy makers, regulators, industry, scientific community for successful implementation of the Initiative,

- Ensure quality standards of select medicines and products for pooled procurement and local production leveraging on AMA,
- To consider the Roadmap for implementation of the recommendations emanating from Meeting,
- Facilitate and forge public and private sector dialogues and partnerships to ensure tangible outcomes; and
- Share ideas, lessons and best practices on how to improve the AfCFTA-anchored Pharma Initiative

The deliberations at the meeting will build on available reports, analysis, think pieces, research papers and statistics.

Participation

The High Level Meeting will be attended by senior officials from select pilot countries (pooled procurement, regulatory affairs and ministry of Health) and relevant stakeholders. The meeting will be held on a two-day hybrid consecutive period of three hours per day to be held Thursday 24th and Friday 25th February 2022.

Format

The hybrid (virtual & physical) event will begin with opening remarks followed by presentations on operationalization of the CPPM on AMSP, establishment of regional pooled procurement database, related regulatory affairs and advocacy, partnerships and investments strategies. Thereafter, a dialogue will ensue between distinguished delegates and Moderator and finally Wrap Up and Way forward.

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