



Ethiopia Holds Consultative Meeting on the WHO Global Health Sector Strategy for HIV/AIDS: 2011 – 2015

27 August 2010, Addis Ababa - The WHO Ethiopia Country Office in collaboration with the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) convened a half day consultative meeting to deliberate on the WHO Global Health Sector Strategy for HIV/AIDS: 2011 – 2015. The meeting brought together a wide section of stakeholders from FMOH, UN Agencies, NGOs, PLWHA Associations, bilateral and multi lateral agencies among others.



The objective of the meeting was to solicit and obtain the contribution of country level stakeholders to the global health HIV strategy 2011 – 2015. To this effect, participants were organized in groups and discussed each chapter very closely in a bid to identify the relevance of the global goals, appropriateness of indicators to monitor the achievement of these goals, as well as priority health sector programs and interventions for countries and WHO's action in supporting the national response.

Dr. Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré, WHO representative in Ethiopia, in her address to the participants underscored that the World Health Organization has been providing evidence-based, technical support to its Member States to help them scale up treatment, care and prevention services as well as medicines and diagnostics supply to ensure a comprehensive and sustainable response to HIV/AIDS. This support is guided by different HIV strategies including Global Health Sector Strategy on HIV/AIDS 2003-2007, the “3 by 5” initiative of 2003 and the WHO Universal Access Plan 2006-2010, all of which have enabled the Organization to effectively discharge its global mandate. She Also added that the strategy will need to build on the achievements and lessons learned from the very diverse and rich experiences gained so far including the recommendation of the Second Independent Evaluation (SIE) of UNAIDS done in December 2009.

H.E Dr. Kebede Worku, State Minister of the FMOH, officially opened the meeting. In his opening speech, he appreciated the efforts of WHO and pointed out that despite challenges, Ethiopia had made a lot of progress in mitigating the expansion of HIV/AIDS and its impacts and hoped that the upcoming Multi Sectoral Plan (MSP) II would be in line with the global strategy being developed. Finally, he thanked the organizers of the meeting and reiterated his call to the participants to engage actively and provide their input to the national health sector contribution to the global strategy.



The consultation took the form of plenary presentation of outline and methods of work, group discussions in which all groups discussed all the relevant sections and feedback and discussion in plenary. It is to be recalled that the World Health Assembly adopted WHA 63.19 resolution that requested the WHO director General to develop a WHO HIV/AIDS strategy for the aforementioned years through a broad consultative process. Accordingly WHO has been involved in a broad consultative process globally, regional as well as at country level aiming at setting global goals for the health sector response to HIV/AIDS, guiding national HIV response; and providing a framework for concerted action at global, regional and country level.