

THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIBREVILLE DECLARATION





**THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
STRATEGIC ALLIANCE
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE LIBREVILLE DECLARATION**

Luanda, 26 November 2010



AFRO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

The health and environment strategic alliance for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration:
Luanda, Angola 25- 26 November 2010

1. Environmental Health
2. Disorders of Environmental Origin - prevention and control
3. Environmental Policy
4. Environmental Monitoring
5. Health Plan Implementation

- I. World Health Organization. Regional Office for Africa

ISBN 978 292 023 1813 (NLM Classification: **WA 670**)

© WHO Regional Office for Africa, 2011

Publications of the World Health Organization enjoy copyright protection in accordance with the provisions of Protocol 2 of the Universal Copyright Convention. All rights reserved. Copies of this publication may be obtained from the Library, WHO Regional Office for Africa, P.O. Box 6, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo (Tel: +47 241 39100; Fax: +47 241 39507; E-mail: afrobooks@afro.who.int). Requests for permission to reproduce or translate this publication – whether for sale or for non-commercial distribution – should be sent to the same address.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either express or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization or its Regional Office for Africa be liable for damages arising from its use.

THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIBREVILLE DECLARATION

Adopted by Ministers of Health and Ministers of Environment at
the Second Interministerial Conference
on Health and Environment in Africa Luanda, Angola 25 - 26 November 2010.

BACKGROUND

1. The Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa was adopted on 29 August 2008 by ministers of health and ministers in charge of the environment from 52 African countries. In this Declaration, the ministers committed African countries to establishing a health and environment strategic alliance for addressing health and environment issues in Africa.
2. WHO, UNEP, partners and experts representing selected countries met in Windhoek, Namibia, from 25 to 27 February 2009, to discuss, inter alia, the Libreville Declaration and its implications for the work of partners, and to obtain consensus on the roadmap towards the Second Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in 2010. Partners issued a Windhoek statement of partners on the implementation of the Libreville Declaration in which they committed to "provide every support to the creation of the health and environment strategic alliance and support further its activities at both country and international levels". The purpose of this document is to propose arrangements for the formalization of the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance.

MISSION

3. The mission of the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance (HESA) is to implement the Libreville Declaration at the national and international levels. It aims to develop and coordinate actions by the health and environment sectors within the development planning processes in order to effectively value and utilize health and environment linkages for protecting and promoting public health and ecosystem integrity with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

MANDATE

4. **At the country level:** The core mandate of the HESA is to support the joint implementation of the Libreville Declaration by:

- (i) Steering and executing an iterative process of situation analysis and needs assessment;
 - (ii) Facilitating the identification of national priorities;
 - (iii) Developing national plans of joint action (NPJAs); providing guidance for the formulation of cross-sector activities deriving from the national plans of joint action and involving a wide range of partners;
 - (iv) Monitoring and evaluating progress;
 - (v) And undertaking advocacy and resource mobilization.
5. **At the international level:** The core mandate of the HESA is to support country efforts through advocacy, collaboration, resource mobilization, capacity building, technical support and progress monitoring.

ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

6. The organizational arrangements comprise four main entities: the Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, the Country Coordination Committees (CCC), the Meeting of Partners, and the Secretariat.
7. **The Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa (IMCHE)** is a policy forum to facilitate intersectoral dialogue and provide opportunities to take decisions that may lead to a better alignment of resolutions adopted by meetings of the WHO Regional Committee with those of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment, African Union Heads of State Summits and other relevant forums, on matters concerning health and environment linkages in Africa. The IMCHE takes place every two years and is preceded by the Meeting of Experts. Experts on health and environment should also organize meetings at subregional levels in collaboration with and with the support of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and relevant regional groupings to address specific health and environment related issues.
8. **The Meeting of Partners will bring together WHO, UNEP, other UN agencies, regional economic groupings, development banks, and donor countries** on an annual basis with African countries to review progress in the implementation of the Libreville Declaration. These meetings of partners will provide guidance on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Interministerial Conference and endorse international-level plans of joint action prepared by the Secretariat.

9. **The Country Coordination Committees** will act as the Secretariat of the HESA at the national level. They will be responsible, inter alia, for the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of NPJAs. Governments, therefore, need to establish CCCs that are multisectoral and multidisciplinary. The CCCs have to reflect representation from all relevant ministries and will be coordinated at supra-ministerial level. The CCCs will steer the implementation of the Libreville Declaration. They will be overseen at the political level by interagency committees that will include government representatives, development partners and the civil society and should convene meetings regularly. The exact form of the above arrangements will be decided by governments themselves, according to their specific situations.
10. **The Secretariat of the HESA at the international level** will be assumed by the Joint Task Team (JTT) in accordance with the recommendation of the first Meeting of Partners. The JTT is currently composed of WHO and UNEP staff members. Other UN agencies, regional economic groupings and development banks will be requested to designate a representative to serve on the JTT, as appropriate. The JTT will develop biennial plans of action (International Plans of Joint Action (IPJAs)) that will be based on NPJAs and aligned with work plans of WHO, UNEP and other partners. Selected countries will participate in the JTT on a rotational basis according to criteria agreed by the Inter-Ministerial Conference.
11. **The general functions** of the Secretariat are:
- (a) To prepare sessions of the Inter-ministerial Conference;
 - (b) To support the implementation of resolutions, decisions and declarations adopted by the Inter-ministerial Conference;
 - (c) To coordinate technical support to countries;
 - (d) To undertake advocacy and resource mobilization;
 - (e) To facilitate exchange of experiences among countries;
 - (f) To support the activities of the network of surveillance of communicable and noncommunicable diseases;
 - (g) To support monitoring of progress;
 - (h) To carry out regular evaluations;
 - (i) To facilitate networking.

12. The Secretariat will establish technical support networks of experts (TSNs) in health and environment in order:
 - (a) to facilitate experience sharing and information exchange among countries;
 - (b) to provide technical support to countries for implementation of their national action plans;
 - (c) to support monitoring of progress.

THE WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

13. The JTT has the following main areas of work: resource mobilization and coordination; advocacy and communication; technical support and capacity building; and monitoring and evaluation.
14. **Resource mobilization and coordination:** The Libreville Declaration requests WHO, UNEP and other partners to "increase their efforts in advocacy, resource mobilization, and in obtaining new and additional investments in order to strengthen the strategic alliance between health and environment". The first Meeting of Partners endorsed an overall framework for a resource mobilization and coordination (RMC) mechanism. Partners agreed that the RMC be designed to provide technical assistance to countries for the formulation of relevant and technically sound proposals to substantially improve their quality and increase the number of projects approved by donors and other financial mechanisms. The mechanism would aim to ensure project governance by countries. Finally, the RMC mechanism should be able to carry out resource assessment at the global, regional and country levels.
 - (a) Goal:

To facilitate access to technical and financial resources by countries to meet the objectives and targets set in their National Plans of Joint Action (NPJAs).
 - (b) Objectives:
 - (i) To identify at the national, regional and global levels, existing resources in the health, environment and other relevant sectors that can be accessed and used by countries for programmes and projects deriving from PJAs;
 - (ii) To facilitate donor collaboration in order to streamline existing funding to better match country priorities;

- (iii) To provide technical assistance to countries in the development of funding proposals that are in line with their priorities and that best respond to donor requirements;
- (iv) To advise countries on project management and governance;
- (v) To raise new and additional resources;
- (vi) To promote targeted partnerships for resource mobilization.

(c) Functions:

- (i) Resource identification and mapping;
- (ii) Donor identification and mapping;
- (iii) Project identification and mapping;
- (iv) Technical assistance for proposal development;
- (v) Project monitoring and evaluation for appropriate use of resources;
- (vi) Technical assistance for project governance and trouble shooting;
- (vii) Fund raising for new and additional resources;
- (viii) Grant management.

(d) Main products and services:

- (i) A specialized group of experts acquainted with procedures and requirements of main financial instruments to support countries in resource mobilization;
- (ii) Tools and methodologies for donor assessment and grant management at the disposal of countries;
- (iii) Regular forecasting reports on financial streams potentially accessible by countries for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration;
- (iv) Established mechanisms for strengthening project management and governance;
- (v) An established mechanism for the management of special funds.

15. **Advocacy and communications**

(a) Goal:

To ensure that the priority actions contained in the Libreville Declaration remain on top of the policy and strategic agenda of countries and their partners and to communicate and collaborate with stakeholders at the international level.

(b) Objectives:

- (i) To support countries in the development of advocacy and communications strategies, with a particular reference to targeted and specific advocacy towards institutions and communities including the youth, parliamentarians, local government, education ministries, civil society and the private sector;
- (ii) To support the documentation, publication and dissemination of the experiences, progress and challenges of countries and partners in the implementation of the Libreville Declaration.

(c) Functions

- (i) Promotion of the Libreville Declaration;
- (ii) Promotion of the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance;
- (iii) Country support in advocacy and communication;
- (iv) Promotion of knowledge sharing and information exchange;
- (v) Development and dissemination of information, and outreach materials and publications.

(d) Main products and services:

- (i) Web site as the principal vehicle providing information, links, viewing and downloading facility and offering support tools;
- (ii) Publications;
- (iii) Clear and coherent messages on HESA (Health and Environment Strategic Alliance) issues generated by countries and eventually partners;

- (iv) Fact sheets/outreach and promotion materials for different target groups: brochures/newsletter;
- (v) Communication and Advocacy resource kit for countries;
- (vi) User-friendly on-line database on countries' experiences and health and environment country profiles;
- (vii) Outreach events: exhibitions, side-events, seminars, briefings, etc.;
- (viii) Web products: podcasts, web videos etc. and on-line interactive platforms for exchange of information, experiences and best practices.

16. **Technical support and capacity building**

(a) Goal:

To provide guidance and support to countries for the assessment and management of environmental risk factors for human health and ecosystem degradation.

(b) Objective:

To support countries in the development and implementation of National Plans of Joint Action.

(c) Functions:

- (i) Policy review and formulation;
- (ii) Development of national priority multisectoral programmes;
- (iii) Strengthening of health and environment institutions;
- (iv) Knowledge management;
- (v) Measurement of interlinked health and environment impacts;
- (vi) Supporting the implementation of binding and non-binding international agreements;
- (vii) Preparation of national health and environment outlook reports;
- (viii) Resource allocation.

(d) Main products and services:

- (i) An operational network of experts competent in policy analysis and formulation, programme development and capacity building with specific reference to health and environment linkages;
- (ii) A special expert group on technologies to provide advice to countries on the choice of technological options;
- (iii) Training programmes for all levels in major areas of health and environment linkages;
- (iv) Frameworks for development and/or strengthening of health and environment services in the context of health systems strengthening.

17. **Monitoring and evaluation:**

(a) Goal:

To facilitate effective implementation of the Libreville Declaration.

(b) Objective:

To assess, document and disseminate the progress made in the implementation and impact of the Libreville Declaration, and to recommend changes, where needed.

(c) Functions:

- (i) Development, harmonization and dissemination of monitoring and evaluation tools and indicators;
- (ii) Country support for monitoring and evaluation of action plans and projects;
- (iii) Development and implementation of regional-level monitoring and evaluation activities;
- (iv) Preparation of progress reports for consideration by the Inter-ministerial Conference;
- (v) Facilitation of technical and scientific support networks.

(d) Main products and services:

- (i) A health and environment database, including a data management system available on the public domain;

- (ii) Health and environment decision support tools for policy-makers and implementers;
- (iii) Research partnerships for impact assessment, technological choices and technology transfer;
- (iv) Country and regional health and environment outlook reports.

