

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING NATIONAL  
HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS**  
(document AFR/RC54/12 Rev.1)

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolutions AFR/RC41/R5 and AFR/RC41/R6 relating to the need to develop and strengthen health information systems at national and district levels, and resolutions WHA48.13 and AFR/RC48/R2 relating to communicable disease prevention and control and to the regional strategy for integrated surveillance of diseases and the utilization of epidemiological data for decision-making;

Bearing in mind Resolution AFR/RC50/R1 calling for the development and implementation of sustainable national health policies and the setting up of mechanisms to monitor and evaluate progress in the framework of the Health-for-All Policy for the 21st Century in the African Region: Agenda 2020;

Deeply concerned by the inadequacy of national health information system, poorly functioning structures and lack of necessary resources required for health information at all levels;

Aware of the weaknesses in the collection and analysis of data, their late processing and transmittal, and insufficient use of the available information;

Recognizing the need for reliable health data to inform both strategic management and operational decisions and concerned that such data are not readily available;

Noting that countries have endorsed the millennium development goals and the monitoring of the health-related indicators in the framework of national health information systems;

Committed to ensuring that national health information systems properly undertake their functions of measurement and reporting of all health and related indicators;

Having examined document AFR/RC54/12 Rev.1, entitled “Priority interventions for strengthening national health information systems”;

1. APPROVES document AFR/RC54/12 Rev.1 entitled “Priority interventions for strengthening national health information systems”;

2. CALLS UPON Member States:

- (a) to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of their national health information systems in order to identify their weaknesses and needs in terms of human, financial and material resources, including means of communication and supervision;
- (b) to review and update national essential health indicators—targets as proposed in the regional Health-for-All Policy for the 21st Century in the African Region: Agenda 2020 and the millennium development goals—with minimum datasets which are to be collected, analysed and used regularly and timely at all levels of the national health system;
- (c) to adopt a policy on national health information systems that is part of the national health policy;
- (d) to improve the coordination and management of the various subsystems of the national health information system, recognizing that subsystems are handled by various government departments, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations;
- (e) to establish or strengthen national health information system units and increase investment for health information systems;
- (f) to ensure dissemination and effective use of data collected for day-to-day operations and strategic planning;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to provide support to Member States to enable them to implement priority interventions for strengthening national health information systems;
- (b) to promote technological options that facilitate networking, communication, access, use and feedback of health information;
- (c) to provide support to countries for resource mobilization and capacity building in national health information systems;
- (d) to report to the Regional Committee every two years on the progress made in the implementation of priority interventions to strengthen national health information systems.