

## 72nd World Health Assembly

(Geneva, 20-28 May 2019)

### Ministerial session

“Malaria: stepping up the fight to reach 2030 objectives”

22 May 2019, 18:00-19:30

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room VII

### Concept note

#### Background

The *WHO World Malaria Report 2018*<sup>1</sup> shows that, after a decade of unprecedented progress, gains against the disease have slowed, with a worrying resurgence in 2016 and 2017. We therefore need to reenergise the global fight against the disease in order to reach public health objectives set for 2030<sup>2,3</sup>. Meanwhile, investments in malaria—both international and domestic—are currently well below the US\$ 6.5 billion funding target for 2020: according to WHO, US\$ 3.1 billion was available for global malaria control and elimination programmes in 2017. The report also shows signs of hope as there has been quickening pace towards elimination and some countries are making significant reductions in their malaria burden. The positive progress needs to be continued and expanded.

In 2015, World Health Assembly adopted its *Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030*<sup>2</sup>, which includes several targets, including reducing malaria deaths and disease by at least 40% by 2020 compared to 2015 and by at least 90% by 2030, as well as malaria elimination. It also emphasizes the need for universal coverage of standard malaria interventions for all at-risk populations as well as the importance of evidence-based decision making using high-quality surveillance data.

To get the fight against malaria back on track in countries most affected by the disease, “High burden to high impact,” a new country-led approach, was launched in November 2018 in Mozambique. Catalysed by the WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, the approach is based on four “pillars” – political will to reduce malaria deaths; strategic information to drive impact; better guidance, policies and strategies; and a coordinated national malaria response. This approach is relevant to all settings including bringing down the cases in high burden countries as well as for those in elimination.

Five of the eleven high burden countries are francophone<sup>4</sup>. Experience sharing and the development of a common vision among these countries, as well as with other countries where malaria prevalence has been greatly reduced or where the disease has been eliminated, will enable the achievement of strategic priorities.

---

<sup>1</sup> World Malaria Report 2018. WHO. November 2018. ISBN: 978 92 4 156565 3.

<sup>2</sup> Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030. WHO. 2015. ISBN 978 92 4 256499 0.

<sup>3</sup> Sustainable Development Goal 3.3.

<sup>4</sup> Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Mali, Niger

## **Objectives**

- Highlight progress against malaria challenges and identify success factors and lessons learned;
- Discuss practical issues for the implementation of the “High burden to high impact” strategic approach and mobilise stakeholders.

## **Format**

- Ministry-level side event included in the programme of World Health Assembly 2019;
- Panel discussion held in French with simultaneous interpretation in English/French/Spanish, with representation from endemic country Ministers of Health, as well as experts from international organisations and other partners;
- Event followed by a reception.

## **Organisers and partners**

- Event co-sponsored by Argentina, Benin, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Djibouti, France, Gabon, India, Latvia, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Monaco, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Viet Nam;
- with support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the International Organisation of la Francophonie, the RBM Partnership to End Malaria and the World Health Organization.

## **Contact**

- Nathalie ODOUNLAMI BEUGGER, International Organisation of la Francophonie, [nathalie.odounlami@francophonie.org](mailto:nathalie.odounlami@francophonie.org)
- Xenya SCANLON, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, [Xenya.Scanlon@endmalaria.org](mailto:Xenya.Scanlon@endmalaria.org)

## **Provisional agenda**

### **18:00-18:05 Welcome remarks**

- Ms Catherine Cano, Administrator, International Organisation of la Francophonie (invited) OR
- HE Kadra Ahmed Hassan, Permanent representative of Djibouti and President of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors in Geneva (invited)

### **18:05-18:15 Achievements and milestones in malaria elimination**

- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General (*focus on malaria elimination milestones in the context of achieving SDGs*)
- HE Adolfo Rubinstein, Minister of Health, Argentina (*focus on political engagement in malaria elimination*)
- HE Arlindo Do Rosario, Cabo-Verde (*focus on national progress towards malaria elimination*)

### **18:15-19:00 Panel discussion “High burden to high impact: national response strategies”**

**Introduction and moderation:** Dr Abdourahmane Diallo, CEO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria

#### **Panelists:**

- HE Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr, Minister of Health and Social Action, Senegal (*focus on transboundary cooperation in malaria efforts*)
- HE Diane Gashumba, Minister of Health, Rwanda (*focus on domestic health financing initiative*)
- HE Idi Illiassou Mainassara, Minister of Health, Niger (*focus on innovative approaches such as “Malaria Matchbox” and seasonal malaria chemoprevention*)
- HE Nazira Abdula, Minister of Health, Mozambique (*focus on high burden countries including multisectoral action*)
- Mr Vikas Sheel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India, Head of Delegation (*focus on national action to reduce malaria burden*)

### **Closing the financial gaps in the fight against malaria**

- Mr Peter Sands, Executive Director, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (*focus on the need to step up domestic and international financing in the fight against malaria, introduction to the next Global Fund Replenishment Conference*)

**19:00-19:30 Discussion with the audience** (Priority will be given to Ministers from co-sponsoring countries; Ministers will be informed that the floor will be given to them as a priority on a question of their choice in connection with the session’s theme)

### **19:30-20:30 Reception**

*NB: Speakers are still in the process of being confirmed.*