



## WHO Regional Committee for Africa 2024

**Side event: Promoting equitable and sustainable access to life-saving innovations in Africa, with a focus on malaria vaccines, regional manufacturing and maternal health**

**30<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

### Draft Agenda

*Chairperson: Dr Pierre Somse, Minister of Health and Population, Central African Republic, and Head of the African countries delegation to the Unitaid Executive Board*

Time	Agenda item	Speaker	Responsible for securing, briefing and supporting speaker/panelist	Description and panel questions to be asked by chairperson
<b>Registration and breakfast - 6:45-7:15</b>				
7:15-7:30	Meeting opening, welcome remarks and priorities and challenges in implementing innovative health solutions with Unitaid support	Dr Pierre Somse, Minister of Health and Population, Central African Republic	Unitaid	<i>Introduction, objectives of the side-event, three themes, agenda and panel discussion, expected outcomes. Talking points aligned with the event concept note.</i>
7:30-7:40	Keynote address by the WHO Regional Office for Africa	Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa	AFRO	<i>Gaps remaining in the African region in HIV, TB, Malaria, Hepatitis, STIs, cervical cancer and maternal and child health products. Challenges with 70% of the pharmaceuticals consumed on the continent being imported.</i>



				<i>Roles of stakeholders in innovation and sustainable access to new and better tools to reach the global health goals. WHO and Unitaid cooperation.</i>
7:40-7:50	Unitaid's unique role in the global health architecture	Dr Philippe Duneton, Executive Director, Unitaid	Unitaid	<i>Introducing Unitaid, its work in Africa, past successes, future opportunities, fundamental role of partnerships. PowerPoint presentation.</i>
<b>Panel discussion</b> <b>Equitable and sustainable access to life-saving innovations in Africa</b>				
7:50-8:40	Introduction of panel discussion	<b>Moderator</b> , Dr Pierre Somse, Minister of Health and Population, Central African Republic (5 min)	Unitaid	<i>Introduction of panelists and inviting them to the podium. Reminding the audience about the three main areas to be discussed and that there will be 10 min discussion at the end of the session open for all.</i>
	New diagnostics and treatments needed to improve <b>maternal health</b>	Dr Edwin G. Dikoloti, Minister of Health and Wellbeing, Botswana (5 min)	Unitaid	<i>Progress in reducing maternal deaths has stalled since 2016 and about 70% of all maternal deaths are in sub-Saharan Africa. Unitaid works with partners to accelerate better health solutions to reduce post-partum hemorrhage and is soon to launch new investment opportunities to curb pre-eclampsia and anemia. The focus is to find better health products that can be deployed at primary health care level.</i>



				<p>1. <i>What is the maternal mortality situation in Botswana, what are your achievements and challenges?</i></p> <p><i>How would Unitaid's innovations benefit Botswana? Are there additional urgent needs?</i></p>
	<p>Pioneering and accelerating access to new <b>malaria vaccines</b></p>	<p>Dr Manaouda Malachie, Minister for Health, Cameroon (5 min)</p>	<p>AFRO</p>	<p><i>In 2021, WHO recommended the world's first malaria vaccine. With funding from Unitaid, Gavi and the Global Fund, WHO generated evidence on the feasibility, impact and safety of the vaccine in Kenya, Ghana and Malawi. Cameroun was the first country to start using the vaccine outside of the pilot studies.</i></p> <p>1. <i>What were the steps you took to ensure access to the malaria vaccine? How can we collectively ensure rapid and equitable access to new lifesaving innovations?</i></p> <p><i>Earlier this year, Cameroun and WHO hosted a meeting in Yaoundé to accelerate action to end deaths from malaria.</i></p> <p>2. <i>What actions should be taken by African Ministers of Health to implement the Yaoundé declaration ?</i></p>



<p>Partnering to scale-up new <b>malaria vaccines</b></p>	<p>Dr Michael Adekunle Charles, Chief Executive Officer, RBM Partnership to End Malaria (5 min)</p>	<p>AFRO</p>	<p><i>The RBM Partnership to End Malaria manages the largest global multi-stakeholder platform to fight malaria. One of your strategic objectives is to: facilitate the deployment and scale-up of new products, techniques or implementation strategies.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. How does the RBM partnership foster the use and scale-up of better health solutions in general and the malaria vaccine in particular?</i></li> <li><i>2. What is the Partnership's role in supporting Ministers of Health implement commitments taken through the signing of the Yaoundé declaration?</i></li> </ol>
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>2.</i></li> </ol>
<p>Road to self-sufficient <b>manufacturing</b> of quality health products in Africa</p>	<p>Dr Mohammad Ali Pate, Minister of Health and Welfare, Nigeria (5 min)</p>	<p>Unitaid</p>	<p><i>The majority of the world's health products produced in just a few mainly high-income countries. This leaves countries vulnerable to price volatility, supply chain disruptions or unavailability of essential health products. Nigeria has a Presidential Initiative on Unlocking Healthcare Value Chains managed by your Ministry:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. What are the goals of this Initiative?</i></li> </ol>



<p>Concerted efforts to scale-up <b>manufacturing</b> of health products in Africa</p>	<p>H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, African Union (5 min)</p>	<p>Unitaid</p>	<p><i>African leaders pledge to increase the share of vaccines, medicines, and diagnostics locally manufactured in Africa to 60% by 2040.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. How does the African Union work towards this ambitious goal?</i></li> <li><i>2. What is the role of partnerships in making this happen?</i></li> </ol>
<p><b>Unitaid's role</b> in ensuring equitable and sustainable access to innovative health products and services in Africa</p>	<p>Dr Philippe Duneton, Executive Director, Unitaid (5 min)</p>	<p>Unitaid</p>	<p><i>We have heard from Ministries of Health and partners about three areas that are key to Unitaid and also to achieving the health-related SDGs.</i></p> <p><i>We know that Unitaid's 2023-2027 Strategy includes three key strategic objectives to improve rapid equitable access to innovative health products, including partnerships.</i></p> <p><i>What action is Unitaid taking to increase access to innovation and local production in cooperation with African countries?</i></p>
<p>Fundamental role of <b>communities and civil society</b> on access to health innovation</p>	<p>Maurene Murenga, Executive Director, Lean on Me Foundation (5 min)</p>	<p>Unitaid and AFRO</p>	<p><i>Meaningful community engagement is essential for the introduction and adoption of better health products.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. What are the risks of not engaging with people affected by the diseases when introducing for example a new medicines?</i></li> </ol>



				<p><i>HIV activists have been successful in destigmatizing HIV and pushing for the development of new diagnostics and drugs.</i></p> <p>2. <i>How do we ensure stronger community voices in areas such as maternal health and malaria vaccine introduction?</i></p>
	Discussion	<p><b>Moderator</b>, Dr Pierre Somse, Minister of Health and Population, Central African Republic (10 min)</p>	Unitaid	<p><i>Open the floor to get feedback from the audience on <b>how we can</b>:</i></p> <p>1. <i>Strengthen political and financial commitment to equitable access to better health solutions as a prime way to achieve UHC and the health related SDGs?</i></p> <p>2. <i>Optimize collaboration between Ministries of Health and Unitaid to maximize the impact of health innovations while enhancing engagement with African institutions and boosting regional manufacturing capacity?</i></p>
8:40-8:45	Meeting wrap-up and closure	Dr Pierre Somse, Minister of Health and Population, Central African Republic	Unitaid	