

PRESS RELEASE

ENDEMIC COUNTRIES RBM BBOARD MEMBERS MEET IN GENEVA TO PLAN FOR A STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND POSITIONING MEETING FOR ENDEMIC COUNTRIES HEALTH MINISTERS IN VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE ON 06 JULY 2014

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 16 MAY, 2014: - Endemic Countries Board Members made up of Health Ministers from Kenya, Sierra Leone, Corte de Ivory, Zimbabwe, Gabon and representatives from India and Thailand met during the RBM Ministerial Session lunch to discuss mechanisms for strengthening endemic countries participation/representation in Board Meetings, strategies for filling the gap created by the shrinking RBM resources envelop, reaching consensus and mounting a common position on decisions of the Board in preparation for the 27th Board Meeting and strengthening collaboration in preparation for the post-2015 agenda. The RBM Board Chair and IOM Southern African Regional Office also attended the meeting which was facilitated by SARN and WARN Secretariats. Ministers took advantage of the SARN planned meeting of the SADC Health Ministers (06 July 2014) and SARN Annual Constituencies Review and Planning Meeting (07 – 11 July) in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The fact that Zimbabwe is the current Deputy Chair of the SADC Health Ministers and alternate Board member together with the planned SARN meeting presented the needed conditions for making the meeting high powered.



Endemic Countries Health Ministers planning for the Victoria Falls Meeting

The Endemic Countries Ministers agreed on the following:

- Participation/representation at Board meetings by endemic countries was weak and that this needed to change by ensuring that all Board Members fulfill their mandates and the need for pre-Board meeting consultations that empowers them to present common and consensus positions on matters for decision.
- Acknowledged that the RBM resource envelopes are fast shrinking and creating a huge gap that needs filling. The need to fill the resource gap and positioning for the 27th Board Meeting was viewed as an urgent matter that required their immediate action.
- Mandated SARN and WARN to jointly facilitate the convening of a meeting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe to be held on 06 July 2014 taking advantage of the SARN Annual Constituency Planning meeting planned for 07 to 11 July 2014, Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.
- SARN and WARN Co-chairs would act as Ministers joint coordinating Focal Points for this collaborative, resource mobilization and planning meeting
- Meeting participants to include Endemic Countries Board Members, Ministers from other endemic countries (Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Africa: Asia and the Far East and Southern America/Latino); RBM Board Chair and Deputy and Executive Director: Private Sector: Philanthropists: Development Partners.
- The agenda will include: issues raised during the 26th Board meeting, preparing a position paper in preparation of the 27th Board meeting, filling the gap created by the RBM shrinking resource envelope – how endemic countries contribute to the RBM resource mobilization and strengthening the endemic countries constituency

In conclusion, the Ministers agreed that in the past they have not participated adequately in Board Meetings in which discordant positions were the norm – it is time that we present common positions and plan well ahead of any Board meeting or activity. They further acknowledged that endemic countries contribution to the RBM resource envelope has been weak and this needs to change hence the need to harness together Political leadership, the private sector, philanthropists, development partners and other constituencies. This would be the first ever meeting planned by endemic countries to leverage on each other's comparative advantages and deliberate on critical issues regarding the looming changes at the WHO HQ and Roll Back Malaria (RBM) restructuring following the evaluation recommendations.



Endemic Countries Minister/RBM Board Members Planning for future collaboration

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