



DAILY BULLETIN

REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA COMMITS WHO SUPPORT TO SIDS INITIATIVES

The Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti has on behalf of WHO committed to providing more consistent support to the exchanges and follow up to implementation of decisions taken together at the SIDS meeting.

Speaking at the second day of the conference, on 27th September 2017, Dr Moeti applauded the readiness of all the Island States to join together. She was speaking on the proposition to start pooled procurement and to consider the establishment of a secretariat directed by WHO to be point of liaison, after a feasibility study has been conducted.

Pooled procurement is a purchasing method which combines several buyers into a single unit so as to get more value for their money. An ideal choice for the SIDS who buy items in smaller numbers.

This was the second time Dr Moeti pledged WHO's support to all the countries. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the meeting, the previous night, Dr Moeti commended the Ministers of Health and representatives of the five SIDS -Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros, Sao Tome & Principe and Cabo Verde.

Dr Moeti concluded her remarks by assuring delegates that they would always benefit from WHO assistance and encouraging them to continue assuming stronger roles in the SIDS initiative.

“Mauritius is keen on pooled procurement as well. However we need to make sure we have a good secretariat.”

- Dr Anwar Husnoon (Minister for Health and Quality of Life, Mauritius)

“It is more do-able since we are only 5. We need to get our finance ministers on board and be ready to include other countries.”

- Mr Jean Paul Adam (Minister for Health, Seychelles)

“We need to take into account our population, funding and language uniformity. We give our full support and hope WHO will also provide support. It will allow us to have some equity on global scale.”

- Mr Arlindo do Rosário (Minister for Health and Social Security, Cabo Verde)

“The African continent has been trying same for over 15 years. How do we make it happen? If the African Union has not been successful, how do we succeed?”

- Mme Moinou Ahméd Said Hassani (Secrétaire Général, Comores)

“On the question of a secretariat for pooled procurement among SIDS, this needs to be part of a feasibility study.”

- Dr Matshidiso Moeti (Regional Director WHO/AFRO)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY



“Madagascar is not a part of SIDS, but we are keen on joining the pooled procurement initiative.”

- Dr Randriamarotia Willy (Dir. CAB Madagascar)

“Childhood obesity is a major issue in Seychelles. One of the major challenge is to try and keep up with advertisements whilst informing the population of the risks of an unhealthy diet.”

- Mr Jean Paul Adam (Minister for Health, Seychelles)



“Our biggest concern when it comes to Universal Health Coverage is how to fund it.”

- Head of Delegation, Sao Tome & Principe

“We need the support of WHO to strengthen and improve our National Nutrition Surveillance System.”

- Dr Shahina Aboobakar (Representative Mauritius)

Sharing of Experience

Small Island States and the Challenges of Preventing Childhood Obesity: Dr Shahina Aboobakar, Director Health Service, shares Mauritius' experience.

In Mauritius we face challenges in terms of marketing of unhealthy foods to the population, especially the children. We currently do not have any regulations against marketing of these kinds of foods. We are not focusing on introducing any new regulations although we have other regulations that we want to improve. Some of our legislative measures include the regulation of saturated fats, the sale of unhealthy foods in schools, as well as the ban of soft drinks. With regards to collective action between SIDS, we are open to sharing our experiences with others and giving advice on best practices.



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