REPORT VALIDATION MEETING
NAIROBI, KENYA
25-26 FEBRUARY 2015


Nairobi, Kenya

CONCEPT NOTE
I. Background

The Department of Social Affairs – African Union Commission cognizant of the importance of putting in place a conducive policy environment at the continental level to provide requisite policy guidance and direction to improve the health outcomes of the African people has prepared a number of policy documents among them African Health Strategy, SRHR Continental Framework, Maputo Plan of Action, Abuja call, AU Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. To facilitate the tracking of progress in the improvement of the MNCH situation in the continent, the AUC has been mandated to prepare annual MNCH Status Reports. The documents some of which have been in place for nearly a decade are set to expire in 2015. The documents include:

a) African Health Strategy

The AHS provides strategic direction to Africa’s efforts in creating better health for all and recognizes that Member States and regions and indeed the continent have previously set health goals in addition to the Millennium Development Goals that they have committed to. It explores some of the challenges that militate against the continent decreasing the burden of disease and improving development and also draws on existing opportunities. It highlights strategic directions that can be helpful if approached in a multi-sectoral fashion, adequately resourced, implemented and monitored.

The African Health Strategy endorsed by the 3rd Conference of African Ministers of Health in 2007 is an inspirational framework within which Member States and the RECs would fulfill their roles and partners in Africa’s development will build their health contribution around. The review of the strategy will determine the extent to which Member States, RECs and partners’ health policies, strategies, plans and programmes benefitted from the strategy in their quest to improve the health outcomes of the African people.

b) Maputo Plan of Action

After recognizing that African countries were unlikely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) without significant improvements in the sexual and reproductive health the Continental Policy Framework on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and its Maputo Plan of Action (MPoA) were adopted in October 2005 and January 2006 respectively.

The midterm review of the MPoA was conducted in 2010; among the key recommendations of the review was the extension of the plan’s expiry to 2015. The 15th
Ordinary Session AU Assembly extended the expiry of the MPoA to 2015. As the 2015 timeline is fast approaching it is important that the final review of the MPoA is conducted to determine the impact and relevancy of the policy document as well as guide the future form of the document in the post 2015 era.

c) Abuja Call

The Abuja Special Summit held in 2006 adopted the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (ATM) Services in Africa as well as Africa’s Common Position to the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS, among others. After two mid-term reviews in 2010 and 2013, the AUC is preparing to conduct the final evaluation of its implementation to better appreciate the outcomes and plan future actions.

d) The AU Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria

The AU Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria is policy framework on African sourced solutions. In January 2012, the African Union (AU) Assembly Decision No: Assembly/AU/Dec.413 (XVIII), requested the African Union Commission (AUC) —to work out a roadmap of shared responsibility to draw on African efforts for a viable health funding with support of traditional and emerging partners to address AIDS dependency response.

Given the extraordinary history of AIDS responses – in terms of galvanizing political support, mobilizing resources, addressing trade related aspects of intellectual property rights and bringing about tiered prices for treatment, among other achievements – the Roadmap treats AIDS as a pathfinder for TB, malaria and other diseases affecting the Continent for which African-sourced solutions are required. As a consequence of the imminent expiration date of the AU Roadmap in 2015, a progress review exercise is being organized to establish the extent of the implementation.

e) MNCH Status Report

The 15th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Kampala in 2010 vide AU Assembly Declaration (Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XI)) mandated the AUC to report annually the status of MNCH in the continent. Since then, the Commission has prepared two MNCH status reports for 2012 and 2013. Unlike the previous report, the 2014/15 MNCH Status Report will review the situation with regards to MNCH on the continent since 2010. The report will detail the maternal and child health situation on the continent for the last five years and make recommendations that may guide the post 2015 discourse.
The Department has procured the services of consultants to conduct the final assessment of the African Health Strategy, Maputo Plan of Action, Abuja Call for Accelerated Actions Towards Universal Access to HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria services in Africa together with the AU Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria and prepare the 2014/15 MNCH Status Report. The consultants have prepared the draft 2014/15 MNCH Status Report and review reports for the MPoA, Abuja Call together with the AU Roadmap. In addition, the consultant reviewing the AHS has also prepared the inception report. Consequently, a meeting to validate the draft reports and consider the inception report is being organized in February 2015.

II. Objectives of the Meeting

The overall objective of the meeting is to validate the draft MPoA, Abuja Call and AU Roadmap review reports; the draft 2014/15 MNCH Status Report and consider the AHS inception report. Specifically, the meeting will review and validate the draft:

a) Maputo Plan of Action review report;
b) 2014/15 MNCH Status Report;
c) Abuja Call review report;
d) AU Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria review Report; and

e) inception report for the evaluation of the African Health Strategy.

III. Expected outputs

The meeting is expected to provide comments to the consultants to facilitate finalization of the draft reports as well as the inception report.

IV. Participants

The meeting will be attended by representatives of the Member States and partner organizations involved in the review of the health policy documents and preparation of the MNCH status report.

V. Structure

The meeting will involve presentations of the draft reports as well as the inception report by the consultants. During plenary discussions, participants will deliberate on the reports and provide feedback to facilitate their finalization. Member States and Partners
will in addition provide any required additional data and or information to facilitate finalization of the reports.

VI. Dates, Venue and Language

The meeting will take hold from 25-26 February 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. The venue of the meeting will be communicated in due course. The meeting will be conducted in both in English and French.

VII. Documentation

The following working documents will be available in English and French and will guide the meeting discussions:

a) Draft MPOA review report
b) Draft MNCH Status Report
c) Draft Abuja Call review report
d) Draft AU Roadmap review report
e) Consultancy terms of reference;
f) AHS inception report; and
g) Any other document deemed necessary.

VIII. Logistics

The AUC with support from partners will meet the costs related to the participation of Member States and shall provide a return ticket using the most direct route. The AUC will not be in position to meet the costs associated with the participation of the partners and therefore requests all partners to meet their costs. All participants are requested to obtain visa from the Kenyan embassy in their respective countries. Visa on arrival will be arranged for participants from countries that do not have a Kenyan embassy. Partners are further requested to make their own hotel bookings.

IX. Further Information

Additional information could be obtained from:

Ambassador Olawale Maiyegun PhD  
Director  
Dept of Social Affairs  
African Union Commission  
P O Box 3243  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Email: MaiyegunO@africa-union.org copy to Harakeyem@africa-union.org