THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2011

Excerpts from the opening remarks of the Minister of Health and AIDS Control, Professor Thérèse N’Dri Yoman, thanked the President and Government of Côte d’Ivoire for its commitment to health. Adding further, the Honourable Minister thanked the Government and Member States for hosting the RC61 in the country, which is recovering from an unprecedented socio-political crisis.

The significance of hosting the RC61 at the Fondation Félix Houphouët-Boigny, built by the former President Houphouët-Boigny, was highlighted in her opening address. The former President Houphouët-Boigny, a physician himself established not only the Abidjan Faculty of Medicine in 1966–1972, but also the construction of three University Teaching Hospitals in Abidjan. Thus, this year’s Regional Committee meeting is in keeping with his legacy, as he attached great importance to hosting high level meetings regarding public health in the African Region, to improve health of the African populations.

The Honourable Minister, noted the relevance of this years’ theme noting that all African countries are under increased pressure to come up with relevant and targeted actions to address the challenges still facing African states. These include public health emergencies such as high maternal and child mortality, persistent epidemics like polio, cholera, malaria, measles and yellow fever which have been or are being eradicated elsewhere.

The Minister further expressed optimism and urged all Ministers to come up with relevant and targeted actions during the Sixty-first session of the Regional Committee to eradicate these scourges and ease access to treatment for all our people. As noted, the Honourable Minister quoting the French idiom said, “It should therefore not only be a session of hopes and great expectations, but also a session of actions for our people.”

In conclusion, the Honourable Minister quoting the French idiom said, “Nothing is impossible to the French” and added “The Ivoirian is never discouraged.”

WHA 61ST SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

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1 September 2011

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK, DAY 4:

Item 14 Monitoring the implementation of the health Millennium Development Goals (Document AFR/RCS/11/9)

10:30 – 11:00 Tea break

11:00 – 12:30 Item 15 Framework for public health adaptation to climate change in the African Region (Document AFR/RCS/11/10)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30 Item 16 Progress report on poliomyelitis in the African Region. (Document AFR/RCS/11/11)

15:30 – 16:30 Item 17 Progress reports

Item 17.1 Progress report on the Road map for accelerating the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals related to maternal and newborn mortality in Africa. (Document AFR/RCS/11/1)

Item 17.2 Progress report on decade of Traditional medicine in the African Region (Document AFR/RCS/11/2)

Item 17.3 Progress report on the implementation of Regional Health Promotion Strategy (Document AFR/RCS/11/3)

16:30 – 17:00 Item 18 Information

Item 18.1 Report of WHO staff in the African Region (Document AFR/RCS/11/1/3)

Item 18.2 WHO internal and external audit reports (Document AFR/RCS/11/4)

19:30 End of day session

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The African Federation of Public Health Associations was launched at a special session of the Regional Committee on Wednesday 31st August, 2011. WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Luis Gomes Sambo, the President of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, Prof Ulrich Laaser, the new President of the African Federation of Public Health Associations Dr Matias Somé and Dr. Tewabech Beshaw the Co-Chair of the organizing Committee of the 13th World Congress on public health to be held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, 23 to 27 April 2012 addressed the gallery during the launch.

The Secretariat of the AFPHA will be based in the Ethiopian Public Health Association in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- The Vision of AFPHA is to have a healthy productive population in Africa.
- The mission of AFPHA is to contribute to the engagement of all key stakeholders in Africa and the world, through active national Public Health Associations and an active Federation, to influence policies, strategies and activities that will positively impact the health of all the African people.

The membership of the Federation (AFPHA) is open to all multi-disciplinary national Public Health Associations in the African countries, however other public health entities can collaborate with the Federation as associate members or as active partners.