MAIN TOPIC: "What services and functions of public health can be applied to public policies favorable to health, with the goal of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa?"

CONTEXT
The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) created the Global Charter for the Public’s Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization. The goal of the Global Charter is to adapt Public Health that currently exists to a global context, in light of, and in coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Charter brings together the best of all existing models and provides a comprehensive, clear and flexible framework that can be applied globally and specifically to each country, whether low, medium or high income.

Mindful of the need for Africa to take ownership of this innovation, and taking into account its intellectual contribution to the initial process of designing this Charter, the Cameroon Association of Public Health (ACASAP), in collaboration with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and the African Federation of Public Health Associations (FAASP), took the initiative to organize an international forum to promote this new Global Charter in Cameroon.

From March 14 to 16 2018 at the Hotel Azur in Yaoundé in Cameroon, the International Public Health Forum was organized. The event was sponsored by the Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon, with the technical support of the World Health Organization and supported by the Public Health Network Association in collaboration with the African and World Federations of Public Health Associations.

This forum, which brought together participants from twelve African countries, was aimed at contributing to the improvement of the health of the African populations through a better utilizing of key services and essential functions of public health in the development, implementation and evaluation of National Health Policies based on equity, social justice and the participation of all.

OBJECTIVES
The specific objectives of the Forum were:

1. Promote understanding and ownership of the Global Charter by States, their Human Resources, and social and community organizations so that they can benefit the health of populations.
2. Analyze the reference frameworks proposed by the Charter, the Key Services of the Public Health offered within the framework of the Policies, Strategies, and Programs of health implemented in African States.

3. Analyze the Essentials of Public Health that constitute the components of the Policies, Health Strategies, and Programs implemented in African States in the light of the standards proposed by the Charter.

4. Identify the least used Public Health Services and Functions as well as possible causes.

5. Adopt, on the basis of the contents of the Charter and the analyzes made, a Key Services and Essential Functions of Public Health adapted to the African context, which is useful for both education and training staff for the development of the Policies, Strategies and Programs of health.

COMMITMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE TERM OF THE FORUM

The participants made the commitment to work individually, collective and at an institutional level to promote the application of the Charter in institutions and organizations as well as in their countries.

Their main recommendations were:

- The Cameroon Public Health Association, the African and Caribbean Federations and the World Federation of Public Health Associations should put in place a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of this forum, and a mechanism to seek the support of Ministries of Health and development partners.

- Foster partnerships, foremost among them WHO and the European Union, to seek technical and financial support for promotional activities and application of the Charter. Support National Public Health Associations in implementing their roadmap to support countries. Support similar Fora organization in countries of the Region.

- Encourage African countries to adopt the Global Charter and to benefit from the potential of National Public Health Associations that must become their partners in the strengthening of national health systems and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals through the introduction of Universal Health Coverage.

CONCLUSIONS

The International Public Health Forum on the Global Charter for the Public’s Health was a success and led to meaningful outcomes.

The implementation of the resulting recommendations, as well as the satisfaction of the Participants' expectations will undoubtedly contribute significantly to the adoption and application of this new Charter in Africa.