



Ouagadougou, Tuesday, October 24, 2018

**Report of the working session between the National Assembly of Burkina Faso and the West African Health Organization on the organization of the preparatory mission for the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee (IPC) for the Follow-up of the Ouagadougou Declaration**

On Monday, October 22, 2018, a working session of the mission to prepare the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee (IPC) for the Follow-up of the Ouagadougou Declaration on Adequate Health Financing, Demographic Dividend and Population and Development Policies was held in the cabinet of the President of the National Assembly (PNA) of Burkina Faso. The session began at 5:00 p. m. and ended at 6:00 p. m. It was attended by:

- ❖ On the side of the National Assembly:
  - Honourable Ousseni TAMBOURA, Deputy in the National Assembly;
  - Mr. Bruno. S. DIPAMA, Director of Cabinet of the National Assembly;
  - Mr Jean-Marie Karamoko TRAORE, Foreign Affairs Advisor, Director in charge of parliamentary and international cooperation;
  - Mrs. Valérie SOUBEIGA, Parliamentary Administrator.
  
- ❖ On the side of the West African Health Organization (WAHO):
  - Mr. Césaire AHANHANZO, General Coordinator of the Project Management Unit at WAHO, representing the Director of the Department of Health Planning and Information (D/DPHI) was unable to attend.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the joint mission of the Burkina Faso National Assembly and the West African Health Organization to prepare the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee (IPC) scheduled to take place in Benin and to determine the dates of the event. It should be noted that the National Assembly of Burkina Faso provides the Secretariat for the Ouagadougou Declaration, while WAHO monitors its implementation as a specialized ECOWAS agency dealing with health and population issues. It should also be noted that these two institutions were the main organizers of the high-level meeting of parliamentarians from ECOWAS, Chad and Mauritania on Adequate Health Financing, Demographic Dividend and Population and Development Policies, held from 20 to 22 July 2017 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, endorsed by the Ouagadougou Declaration. It was attended by several Presidents of National Assemblies of ECOWAS, Mauritania and Chad countries, as well as heads of community parliaments (ECOWAS, UEMOA, and African Union) and international organizations (WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, UNFPA, USAID, AfD, KfW, etc.).

The points raised by the participants at the working session were as follows.

- Proposed dates for the preparatory mission to Porto Novo, Benin;
- Composition of the mission delegation;
- Prerequisites for the preparatory mission;
- Proposal of probable dates for the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee (IPC);
- Miscellaneous.

### **1. Proposed dates for the preparatory mission to Porto Novo, Benin**

The participants in the working session proposed that the preparatory mission to the National Assembly of Benin, located in Porto Novo, should take place from 13 to 15 November 2018, which would provide one month for the organization of the IPC meeting itself. Any delay in the holding of this preparatory mission could jeopardize the holding of the IPC meeting in 2018.

### **2. Composition of the delegation of the preparatory mission**

It was proposed that a joint bipartite mission of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso and the West African Health Organization visit Benin. The National Assembly of Burkina Faso will be represented by a Deputy, and two executives of the Parliamentary Administration including the Director of Cabinet of the PNA; it has been suggested that WAHO be represented by at least two participants. The participants' participation fees are the responsibility of each institution.

### **3. Prerequisites for the preparatory mission**

Pre-requisites for the preparatory mission have been listed. It is about:

- The urgent sending of a letter by the Burkina Faso PNA to its Beninese counterpart to announce the arrival of the preparatory mission on the proposed dates. To this end, colleagues from the National Assembly of Burkina Faso have proposed to activate their network to facilitate the holding of the preparatory mission on the proposed dates;
- The preparation of the correspondence package by the Administration of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso to be shared with that of Benin to facilitate the timely sending of letters to the Presidents of National Assemblies of the 16 other countries, drawing on the correspondence from the July 2017 high-level meeting;
- The preparation of a memorandum by WAHO for the Benin PNA to indicate the mobilization of funding for the IPC meeting by WAHO and its partners as well as clarification on how this funding is to be managed (WAHO ECOWAS rules)
- In response to the recommendation made by DG/OOAS on this important activity during the review meeting of the Department's work plan from September to December 2018, recalled on occasion by the PMU General Coordinator, on the need for prior assessment of the level of implementation by countries of the Ouagadougou Declaration, it was suggested that this request should be included in the correspondence to be sent to the NAPs of the other sixteen (16) countries so that they could send the information to the NAP Burkina Faso two weeks before the IPC meeting, which would already make it possible to propose solutions to remove any bottlenecks related to the implementation of the Declaration;

- It was suggested that, if possible, the National Assembly of Burkina Faso should carry out a preparatory mission to WAHO during the first week of November 2018 to meet with DG/WAHO and the various Directors and Professionals involved in the organization of this event. A letter from PNA Burkina Faso will be sent to DG/OOAS to this effect in the next few days.
- 4. Proposal of probable dates for the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee (IPC);**

The proposed dates for the holding of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee (IPC) to follow up the Ouagadougou Declaration are 17 and 18 December 2018. The meeting would bring together the Chairmen of the Finance and Health Commissions of the 17 National Assemblies of the ECOWAS countries, Mauritania and Chad, as well as community parliaments (ECOWAS, UEMOA, African Union) and partners working on these themes (WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, USAID, KfW, AfD, Dutch Cooperation, etc.). To this end, the Foreign Affairs Advisor of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso has been asked to ensure that the proposed dates for the IPC meeting do not coincide with those of parliamentary sessions at the level of national and community parliaments.

**5. Miscellaneous.**

It was suggested that a DG/OOAS hearing with the Burkina Faso NAP be considered in the coming weeks to discuss the Ouagadougou Declaration and any other issues and concerns of interest in relation to which WAHO would like to have the support of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso to advocate with its sister National Assemblies in the sub-region; this issue could be discussed during the visit of the delegation of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso to WAHO early November 2018;

The question of institutionalizing a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration was also addressed through the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat at WAHO level with human and financial resources to monitor this rather ambitious agenda.

**Rapporteur:**

Césaire Damien AHANHANZO  
PMU/WHO General Coordinator