



**WEST AFRICAN HEALTH ORGANISATION
ORGANISATION OUEST AFRICAINE DE LA SANTE
ORGANIZAÇÃO OESTE AFRICANA DA SAÚDE**

**SIXTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEALTH
MINISTERS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN
STATES (ECOWAS)**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ECOWAS REGIONAL
PHARMACEUTICAL PLAN (ERPP)**

We, the **HEALTH MINISTERS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)** at the 16th Ordinary Meeting of Health Ministers' Assembly on 13th March 2015.

Recalling

The Conference of African Ministers of Health (Johannesburg, April 2007) and the Summit of Head of States and Government (Accra, July 2007) that adopted the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa;

The Summit of Head of States and Government (Addis Ababa, July 2012) that adopted the resolution on access to medicines particularly through local production and harmonization of regulations;

The ECOWAS Charter on Public-Private Partnership on Local Pharmaceutical Production of Essential Medicines was signed by the Health Ministers during the 14th Ordinary Meeting, (Cape Verde, 5th April, 2013). WAHO/XIV AHM/2013/Dec.Tec.02;

Considering the approved ECOWAS Charter on Public-Private Partnership on Local Pharmaceutical Production of Essential Medicines by the Seventieth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers (Abidjan, June 2013);

Considering the Final Communiqué of the Forty-Third Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government (Abuja, July 2013), adopted the report of the Council of Ministers mention above;

Aware that about 365 million people in the ECOWAS region continue to experience high incidence and mortality from Malaria, Tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS among other communicable and non-communicable diseases;

Recognizing that quality, safe and affordable medicines are indispensable as part of our health systems in responding appropriately to public health challenges posed by these diseases;

Aware that 70 to 98 percent of needed essential medicines come from outside the ECOWAS region while counterfeit and illicit trade in medicines constitute an ever increasing menace to our populations;

Noting the challenges experienced by local pharmaceutical production companies in meeting public health needs and the absence of an enabling environment eg. (incentives, tax exemptions, available supporting funds and government patronage) that will empower them to tap existing potential opportunities;

Aware that the process of a harmonized and functioning regulatory system to regulate the manufacture, import, trade, procurement and export of all medicines and health supplies within the region through the legal mandate of the existing National Medicines Regulatory Authorities

(NMRAs) in each of the Member State can only be guaranteed by a vibrant regional pharmaceutical sector;

Recognizing that the adoption of regional harmonized policies, guidelines, standards and requirements, legislation, regulations, strategic plan and training manuals are essential for ECOWAS Member States in conformity with regional and internationally recognized policies and standards.

Do hereby

1. **Adopt** the ECOWAS Regional Pharmaceutical Plan 2014-2020.
2. **Emphasize the need to** boost local pharmaceutical industries via innovative investments, technical and financial support for upgrade of infrastructures and capacity strengthening.
3. **Call** on National Governments within ECOWAS region to create an environment to enable local manufacturing of pharmaceutical products at competitive prices.
4. **Call** on technical and financial partners to continue and intensify support to ECOWAS countries, and the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Pharmaceutical Plan.
5. And **finally** entreat the Council of Ministers to endorse the ECOWAS Regional Pharmaceutical Plan 2014-2020.

Niamey, 13 March 2015

For the Assembly of ECOWAS Health Ministers



**Dr. Kwaku Agyemang Mensah
Minister of Health of Ghana**

Chairman, Assembly of ECOWAS Health Ministers

*HON. MINISTER OF HEALTH
POST OFFICE BOX 144
MINISTRIES--ACCRA*