

PATH'S POSITION ON AFRICAN MEDICINES AGENCY (AMA)

AMATA Side event at the 75th World Health Assembly

"Co-creating the future of the African Medicines Agency"

Africa Day, Wednesday, 25 May 2022

During our session today we have heard strong statements from three Ministers of Health reflecting the need and timeliness of the AMA. Dr. Lia Tadesse from Ethiopia described the imperative of the AMA given the issues faced in the Africa Region such as falsified medicines, inequitable vaccine distribution and the need for better quality medicines and stronger regulation. Hon. The Minister of Ghana described Ghana's quick response to support this effort, their contribution to the harmonization committee and called for a speedy implementation of the AMA. Finally, Minister Jane Aceng shared her reflections on the initial discussions; and her vision for the AMA to be centered in Africa – lead by Africa for Africa.

PATH supports the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) that was approved by the African Ministers of Health and Justice in 2018 and was adopted by Heads of States and Government during their 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly and finally came to force on 5th November 2021. We recognize and respect the leadership of the African Region and stand ready to support their efforts.

PATH recognizes the AMA as critically important given that:

The AMA is intended to provide a platform for coordination and strengthening on-going regional and continental harmonization initiatives, serving to pool expertise and capacities for optimal use of the limited resources.

The AMA will not replace existing national and regional regulatory bodies or harmonization initiatives at RECs level but will complement their efforts and contribute to their capacity building towards improving access to quality assured medical products within the agenda of Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. This is in line with PATH's vision of accelerating health equity so all people and communities can thrive.

Access to good health too often depends on where we were born, our race, gender, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic class, and other factors. Good health opens doors to education and economic stability for individuals and families. It strengthens communities and helps markets grow. It's the foundation of a safer, more just, and more prosperous world for all of us.

PATH recognizes that AMA will contribute to improving public health and life quality in Africa, strengthen regulatory systems that will eventually open perspectives for pharmaceutical industry, medical research, and development. AMA will further:

- Facilitate collaboration between regulators that enables faster approval processes for medical products

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- Expand timely access to medicines for patients who need them most – I call out people living with NCDs that do not have adequate access to medicines and health products leading to dire consequences during the COVID pandemic
- Contribute to building resilient healthcare systems that support a better quality of care
- Fostering a conducive environment for industry and innovation

We appeal to all African member states to ratify The African medicines Agency Treaty and ensure that AMA becomes a reality for the common good of one Africa and good of the whole world.

Delivered by: Helen McGuire