



CANCER CONTROL IN IGAD REGION...

PRESS RELEASE

REPRESENTATIVES OF IGAD MEMBER STATES MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA IN THE CONFERENCE OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CANCER;

REFLECTING ON THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION 2007 REPORT STATING THAT CANCER CAUSES ABOUT 12.5% OF ALL DEATHS WORLDWIDE;

ANTICIPATING DOUBLING OF NEW CANCER CASES WITHIN THE NEXT 20 YEARS; 70% OF WHICH WILL BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT MOST OF THE RISE IN CANCER INCIDENCE IN IGAD REGION AS WELL AS THE REST OF AFRICA IS ATTRIBUTED TO HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC, SUCH AS KAPOSI'S SARCOMA;

NOTING THE URGENT NEED FOR A COORDINATED REGIONAL RESPONSE; THE CONFERENCE HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING SET RECOMMENDATIONS;

1. TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL CANCER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN IGAD REGION IN ETHIOPIA (TO PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE AND FOSTER CANCER CONTROL IN IGAD REGION);
2. TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL HUB/CENTER IN EACH MEMBER STATE; EACH OF WHICH WILL ENDEAVOR TO SPECIALIZE IN A GIVEN AREA (E.G. UGANDA IN CA CX, KENYA IN CA BREAST, ETHIOPIA CA HEAD AND NECK, DJIBOUTI IN SOFT TUMORS, SUDAN IN BRAIN);
3. IGAD WILL TAKE THE LEAD AND TO ENSURE THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND RECOGNITION FOR CANCER CONTROL WITHIN THE REGION;
4. ESTABLISHMENT OF IGAD CANCER STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF 1 MEMBER FROM EACH MEMBER STATE AND ENAHPA WITH CLEAR TERM OF REFERENCE (THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL ASSIGN A TASK FORCE) (IGAD WILL FOLLOW UP WITH MEMBER STATES TO NOMINATE THE MEMBERS), WHO, UNFPA TO TAKE AN ADVISORY ROLE;
5. THERE IS A NEED TO CONSIDER THE SPECIAL SITUATION IN SOMALIA AND TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE WAYS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO IMPROVE THE CANCER CONTROL;
6. TO ADOPT THE DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE AS THE BASE FOR A REGIONAL CANCER CONTROL;
7. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS MADE EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMING OPPORTUNITY OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SUMMIT, TO TAKE PLACE IN SEP 2011;

ADDIS ABABA, JULY 7, 2011