CSA gathered in Ouagadougou
To consolidate the transition from APOC to a new entity for NTD control

The 146th session of the Committee of Sponsoring Agencies, one of the statutory bodies of the African Programme for Onchocerciasis control (APOC), opened its session on 25 June 2014 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. In their three-day agenda, the follow up of the decisions and recommendations of the two previous sessions, the review of the Management of APOC undertaken by two international consultants, the report of the Task Force for the transition of APOC to a new entity for Neglected Tropical Diseases control (NTDs), the report of the Working Group on Governance (WGG), the implementation of APOC plan of action and budget and many other topics were key issues to be discussed during the session.

At the opening of the meeting, the Chair of the session, Dr Chris Mwikisa, highlighted the fact that the session was special because it was expanded to some countries among which are Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire and Tanzania, and to donors and other partners that used not to attend the CSA sessions. This session was considered important because of the agenda relating to the period of transition from APOC to a new entity. The Management of APOC was commended by the CSA for the Conference Room renovated and turned into a nice working environment, thanks to the financial support provided by WHO/AFRO.

In turn, Dr Jean-Baptiste Roungou, Director of APOC, was pleased with the 99% attendance at the meeting. He, then, thanked the Regional Director for making it possible for the Programme to undertake the Programme HQs premises renovation work including the Conference Room.

Finally, he called the participants to learn the best lessons from APOC functioning without considering it, however, as indisputable gains.