Meeting of ministers of health, employment, and finance of countries in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) area

Abidjan, 4 May 2018

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

We,

The ministers responsible for health, employment and finances of the UEMOA area, meeting in Abidjan on 4 May 2018 against the backdrop of a crisis in human resources for health and social welfare in African countries, faced with the challenge of universal health coverage and considering the avowed intent of all African countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030

- Welcome the importance of the recent work of the United Nations High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth which has put forward new evidence of the political, social and economic advantages of job creation in the health and social welfare sectors;

- Also welcome the importance of an intersectoral approach to address the issue of creating decent jobs in the health and social welfare sectors;

- Acknowledge that job creation in the health and social welfare sectors is a key approach, not just for better health, but also for inclusive economic development by reducing poverty, unemployment and under-employment among young people and women;

- Acknowledge the urgent need for a joint approach within UEMOA to identify appropriate solutions to the human resources problem of creating decent jobs in the health and social welfare sectors, particularly in underserved areas, whether rural or remote.

In the light of the foregoing:
- We adopt the subregional action plan for investment in human resources for health and social welfare for the UEMOA countries;

- We affirm the importance of realizing the inclusive economic growth potential associated with employment and decent work in the areas of health and social welfare, through this subregional action plan for the UEMOA countries;

- We request the governing bodies of UEMOA to facilitate intercountry dialogue to mobilize financial resources for the creation of decent jobs in human resources for health and social welfare, taking account of convergence criteria;

- We request UEMOA member countries to adopt sustainable financing mechanisms for investment in the health and social welfare sectors;

- We request UEMOA member countries to improve the business climate to encourage private sector involvement in financing the health and social welfare sectors;

- We recommend that a follow-up secretariat be established to monitor the implementation of the plans at country level, and to ensure ongoing commitment by Member States to invest in human resources for health and social welfare through job creation, national standard-setting with regard to human resources, and recruitment and deployment of health workers on a strategic planning basis;

- We recommend that this process be extended to all Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

- We request the involvement of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) in implementing the subregional plan;

- We seek ongoing support from WHO, ILO, UNESCO and development partners to help countries to implement the plans at the subregional and Member State level.
Finally, we thank France for its support in developing these plans, and Côte d'Ivoire for its leadership and for hosting this ministerial meeting.

Done at Abidjan on 4 May 2018

The Minister of Public Health and Hygiene (Côte d'Ivoire)

Raymonde GOUDOU KOFFI

The Minister of Labour and the Civil Service (Benin)

MATHYS Adidjatou A.

The Minister of the Economy and Finance (Benin)

WADAGNI Romuald

For the Minister of Public Health, the General Secretary (Guinée Bissau)

SILA Antonio Guilherme

The Minister for the Budget (the Niger)

Ahmat JIDOUD

The Minister of Employment and Social Welfare (Côte d'Ivoire)

Jean-Claude KOUASSI

The Minister of Health (Benin)

SEIDOU Allasane

The Minister of Health (Burkina Faso)

MEDA Nicolas

The Minister of Employment and Professional Training (Mali)

BEN KATTRA Maouloud

The Ministry of Public Health (the Niger)

MAINASSARA Idi Illiassou
The Minister of Employment, Labour and Social Welfare (the Niger)

MOHAMED Ben Omar

For the Minister of Health and Social Action, Chef de Cabinet (Senegal)

DIOUF Aloyse Waly

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Togo)

MIJIYAWA Moustapha

For the Minister of Employment, Vocational Integration and Increase in the Work Force, the General Secretary (Senegal)

NDIAYE Gorgui