

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALMA HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AND ACTIONS ON LOCAL MANUFACTURING IN AFRICA

The Friends of the ALMA convened a Forum in Nairobi from 30 to 31 May 2011 to consult on the challenges and potential solutions to the establishment of a world-class Africa-based industry in pharmaceuticals and other medical and vector control commodities. The meeting was opened by the Honorable Minister of Public Health & Sanitation Beth Mugo, and closed by the Honorable Minister of Trade Chirau Ali Mwakwere both of Kenya.

Acknowledging the achievements and potential of the African pharmaceutical industry and of other medical and vector control commodity producers, the Forum recognised that the establishment and growth of a viable industry in pharmaceuticals and other medical and vector control commodities requires a long-term national commitment that calls for strong support and leadership at Governmental level.

The Forum recognized that the attainment of the set objectives shall enable access to quality products in Africa and access to global markets.

The Forum further recognized the contributions and support of mechanisms and organizations such as WHO (PQ), ANDI, UNIDO, UNITAID, etc in promoting the establishment of the African pharmaceutical industry and of other medical and vector control commodity.

The Forum also took note of the African Union Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (2007), and the 64th World Health Assembly resolution of 2011, related reports and papers, as well as regional and country level efforts.

The participants at the meeting endorsed the following communiqué and respectively requested the ALMA Heads of State and Government to take action on the issues and actions set out therein.

1. To support the existing positive commitments to the development of a world class pharmaceutical industry and of other medical and vector control commodity producers, with the development of national cross-government strategic plans. Such plans should address, in addition to health issues, those relating to economic and financial policy, research & development, education, infrastructure, tariffs, and all other aspects of

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government policy that support the full and proper development of this industrial sector.

Action

- Development of a national strategic plan
2. To work collaboratively with other African governments and global organisations, and sector experts, to share expertise, develop regional and pan-African partnerships and centres of excellence, to harmonise regulations at a regional or continental level, and to enable mutual recognition of regulatory approvals, in order to support the more effective achievement of a strong Africa-based industry.

Actions

- Adopt & promote a common vision for local manufacturing
 - Regional plans for development and collaboration in local manufacturing and trade
 - Identify and strengthen centres of excellence
 - Harmonise regulations across regions and countries
3. To negotiate with donors to ensure that a reasonable proportion of donor-funded pharmaceutical industry and other medical and vector control commodities orders and tenders are reserved for national or Africa-based manufacturers and offer a reasonable local production price advantage to such manufacturers who attain international quality standards.

Action

- To adopt a common policy on a local preference quota for local manufactures meeting WHO prequalification and WHOPES standards.
 - To negotiate support of this policy by all donors
4. To re-affirm their commitment to remove tariffs on malaria-related health commodities as expressed in the Abuja Declaration of 2000, and to ensure that this removal of tariffs also includes necessary raw materials needed for their manufacture. To consider extending this commitment to all pharmaceutical industry and other medical and vector control commodities

Action

- Remove taxes and tariffs on drugs and commodities as well as equipment and raw materials for production
5. To re-affirm their commitment to increase resources for health related Research & Development, including bio-equivalence and centres of excellence, as well as pharmaceutical industry and other medical and vector control commodities development fund.

Action

- To set up a fund for research and development, with seed funding from African countries (public and private sectors)

