



Lungi Declaration

On Polio Eradication in West African Sub-Region And The Way Forward

1. The Governments and people of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in partnership with WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International and other partners, have achieved considerable success in the Polio Eradication Initiative.
2. All countries in the Sub-region recorded important achievements in the following Polio-related areas:-
 - a) Successful National Immunization Days (NIDs) have been carried out in Benin, Burkino-Faso, Cape-Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo since 1996.
 - b) The Sub-region has reached the target for Certification in Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance.
 - c) Polio Campaign contributed to strengthening of National Health Services, mainly:-
 - i) Reinforcing the role of Social Mobilization;
 - ii) Increasing the collaboration between sectors, agencies, partners and countries;
 - iii) Assisting in capacity-building for health infrastructure and human resource development.
3. The Polio Eradication Initiative has been instrumental as a bridge for confidence-building and peace keeping in some countries of the Sub-region:
 - i) The recent Sub-National Immunization Days conducted with cooperation of the RUF in some areas in Sierra Leone;
 - ii) The "Health for Peace Initiative" in Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Conakry and Guinea-Bissau.



4. We, the Heads of State and Government at this Launching of Synchronized NIDs, and on behalf of the other ECOWAS Member States, hereby pledge to make appropriate use of the experience accumulated through Polio Campaign and commit ourselves to:-
 - a) Pursue the Polio Eradication Initiative, including Supplementary Immunization (NIDs), routine Immunization and improving Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance, until the Sub-region is Certified Polio-free;
 - b) Strengthen EPI Services, with special focus on activities targeting the elimination of Measles and Neonatal Tetanus;
 - c) Establish Integrated Disease surveillance to control Epidemic-prone Diseases such as Yellow Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Lassa Fever, Cholera and Shigellosis.
 - d) Improve the prevention, case-detection, case-management and control of Malaria and HIV/AIDS/STI;
 - e) Rehabilitate basic Health Service infrastructure, especially in conflict areas;
 - f) Share information and resources to facilitate cross-border Disease surveillance and other health related-activities;
 - g) Use the approach for Polio Eradication Initiative to sustain health and humanitarian support to the-hard-to-reach communities in the Sub-region.
5. We, the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, hereby pledge to protect the children of our countries against Polio, Measles, Malaria, HIV/AIDS and other Diseases, as well as against Poverty, Social Discrimination and any other threat innocent lives, including war.
6. We acknowledge the efforts and collaboration of WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International and other partners in the fight for a world free of Polio and other Diseases. We note the presence of the WHO Regional Director for Africa, UNICEF West Africa Regional Director and Rotary International Director-Elect



and request further support and technical assistance to Member Countries in the Sub-region for the development of health human resources and for strengthening health system.

Signed at Lungi, Sierra Leone on 19th of October in the Year 2001.

On Behalf of ECOWAS

MR ALPHA O KONARE
President of the Republic of Mali

On Behalf of Sierra Leone

ALHAJI DR AHMAD TEJAN KABBAH
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

On Behalf of NIGERIA

CHIEF OLUSEGUN OBASANJO
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

On Behalf of WHO

DR E M SAMBA
Regional Director for Africa

On Behalf of UNICEF

DR RIMA SALAH
West and Central Africa Regional Director

On Behalf of Rotary International

ROT E OFORI AKYEA
Director-Elect, Rotary International