



The Lomé Declaration

An African initiative in the fight against the traffic insubstandard and falsified medicines and other medical products

We, African Heads of State and Government of the Republics of [CONGO, GAMBIA, GHANA, NIGER, SENEGAL, TOGO, UGANDA], meeting in Lomé on the 18th of January 2020,

- A. Conscious of the seriousness and urgency of the problem posed by the trafficking of substandard and falsified medicines and other medical products ;
- B. Aware that this traffic particularly affects the African continent ;
- C. Deeply concerned that the traffic in substandard and falsified medicines and other medical products continues to grow and cause serious harm to public health in African countries, and also damages their economies ;
- D. Recalling that, as part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Programme adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, UN Member States have chosen to consider access to "safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines" as a component of universal health coverage ;
- E. Concerned that the traffic in substandard and falsified medicines and other medical products contributes to transnational organised crime which also finances in particular terrorism and that this poses a serious security threat ;
- F. Concerned that the traffic of substandard and falsified medicines and other medical products results, among other factors, from the absence of, or difficulties in enforcing, criminal legislation in African states ;
- G. Recalling the commitment made by Council of Europe Convention on *counterfeit medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health* (MEDICRIME Convention, Moscow, 2011) ;
- H. Recalling all the commitments and declarations made by the United Nations, the African Union and the World Health Organisation and by other regional and international organisations concerning the fight against the traffic of substandard and falsified medicines and other medical products ;

- I. Welcoming the role of the Brazzaville Foundation in this initiative ;
- J. Recognising the responsibility of governments to take the lead in the fight against this traffic ;

We, the signatories to this Declaration,

- 1) Have decided to launch an African initiative to combat this traffic and to ensure that our citizens have access to quality medicines ;
- 2) Direct their government to work on "*The Framework Agreement on the Criminalization of the traffic in Substandard and Falsified Medicines and other Medical Products*" (Framework Agreement) - annexed to this declaration ;
- 3) Undertake to sign the Framework Agreement and its annexe, the roadmap, which commits us i) to introduce laws and criminal sanctions in our respective jurisdictions to criminalise the traffic in substandard and falsified medicines and other medical product, ii) to work together to ensure compliance with these laws and their rigorous enforcement, and iii) to put in place the mechanisms necessary to guarantee the implementation of this Initiative ;
- 4) Request the Brazzaville Foundation to continue to support us in putting in place the structures and legal instruments necessary for this framework agreement to come into effect ;
- 5) Acknowledge that the Framework Agreement participates to a wider mobilisation to improve access to medicines that do not harm the health of our citizens ;
- 6) Are committed to work resolutely together and to take the necessary measures and actions going beyond this agreement ;
- 7) Encourage the Brazzaville Foundation to continue all of its efforts in the fight against this traffic, including its role in supporting this Initiative and its follow-up ;
- 8) Invite other African countries to join this initiative and call for the intensification of national, regional and international efforts to combat this scourge.