

CONSULTATION COMMUNIQUE

Communique from the 1st Africa Region Health Think Tank Consultation on implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (Kampala 14th October 2016)

The first consultation meeting of Health Think Tanks on the implementation of SDGs brought together over 30 health policy research experts from health policy institutions, academia and policy makers from seven countries and belonging to about 20 institutions, including Universities and Government departments

Participants observed and appreciated that a lot of work is being conducted in support of SDG implementation by health Think Tanks (*health policy research institutions*) in the Africa region. This health policy work to support SDG implementation has not only involved the health Think Tanks present at this consultation meeting but in addition, involves many other health Think Tanks in the region with which there is need to link up and establish networking for synergy and effectiveness. Policy makers also appreciated and welcomed the contribution of health Think Tanks to SDG implementation in the region. The timing of this consultation was therefore perceived as being right.

The consultation identified the need for strengthening cross sectoral work to accelerate SDG achievement in the African region, as the over-riding strategic priority. The way forward was therefore articulated against this background for action at three levels.

- At the National level, cross sectoral work is the priority for achieving the SDGs. This approach provides health think tanks with many entry points for contributing to SDG implementation. In each country, the health Think Tanks should get together with their governments and assign themselves niches for work to take forward in synergy.
- At the Regional level the health Think Tanks would like to continue to work together and bring others for collaboration through a regional network. This will initiate the establishment of an Africa Regional Network of Health Think Tanks supporting implementation of SDG in the region. This Network of African Health Think Tanks will therefore have a common interest of taking “*health outcomes as a centre-stage objective*”, for supporting SDG implementation.
- At the Global level, the African Region Health Think Tanks and their network, will aim to link with other institutions from the world, engaged on similar streams of work for learning from each other, building capacity through mutual support, and collaboration.

Consensus was gained on the key next steps to follow from the consultation as set out below:

1. The draft Report of the Consultation meeting shall be prepared by the host institution, the African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST) and, shared with participants in four weeks’ time after close of the meeting;
 2. A mailing list of participants will be created by ACHEST;
 3. The meeting designated a technical working group (TWG) to take this work forward, constituted by one member from each of the seven participating countries, the IDRC and the East Central and Southern Health Community (ECSA-HC) for ACHEST to coordinate; and,
 4. ACHEST will convene the TWG to review progress with next steps, the draft report and the identified arrangements to take forward the work at the three levels as set out above with special focus upon championing the national initiation of country level “*health think tank network initiatives*” to support implementation of SDGs for better health in Africa, in a sustainable environment.
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