



IADR

International Association
for Dental Research

Meeting: 72nd World Health Organization Regional Committee for Africa

Agenda Item:

Agenda Item 17.1: Progress report on the Regional oral health strategy 2016–2025: addressing oral diseases as part of noncommunicable diseases

IADR Statement:

The Mission of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) is to drive dental, oral and craniofacial research for health and well-being worldwide and we applaud the Regional oral health strategy. IADR is pleased that 17 Member States within the African region have incorporated the oral health agenda into their national health and non-communicable disease (NCD) policies. IADR is also pleased that 31 Member States within the African region have integrated oral health indicators into existing integrated surveillance systems.

As progress continues to be made, IADR asks for the following considerations:

- **Implementation of operational research in the Africa region** – several countries reported difficulties measuring progress in the implementation of the strategy due to the lack of baseline data, research, and monitoring and evaluation systems. This lack of data continues to be systemic as only nine of the 17 Member States with oral health policy documents, established a monitoring system to track its progress. Research and data should be a cornerstone consideration of all intervention programs and policy implementation.
- **Allocation of adequate resources to implement national oral health policies including research programs** – several Member States reported a lack of political commitment, resources, policies, and data that hindered the acceleration of the oral health agenda. The failure of well-funded research programs transcends beyond surveillance, the collection of data, and evaluation but also hinders the ability to support decision-making and track progress in oral health activities.
- **Extension of the Regional strategy to align with the Global strategy by 2030** - the regional oral health strategy should be firmly integrated into the implementation of the global action plan for NCD prevention and control and with efforts to advance primary health care and universal health care.

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