

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED AFRICA PHARMACEUTICAL DISTRIBUTION ASSOCIATION (APDA) AND ITS ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVES

The Africa Pharmaceutical Distribution Association (APDA) has been formed to address all strategic and advocacy issues on pharmaceutical supply chain in Africa. Reference to a special presentation from IQVIA on the Pharmaceutical Market Situation, the statistics revealed that, globally, medicines spending reached \$1.2T in 2018, from \$1.1T in 2017 and is set to be just under \$1.3T by 2019, with 4–5% global growth. However, historic trends and forecasts suggest slower future growth in developed markets (3-6%) vs emerging markets (5-8%). Hence, Africa and other Pharma emerging markets obviously become the key engines for growth, with Africa expected to drive \$19Bn by 2022. As a result, Africa projects to becoming a magnet for foreign investments creating not only growth but development of human resources. It further noted that most of the countries are promoting local manufacturing by offering various incentives. These facts and figures consequently underscores the importance of having a formidable association to police the supply chain to afford real value for money for all stakeholders.

The third constituent meeting of the Africa Pharmaceutical Distribution Association (APDA) was hosted by Groupement Professionnel de la Distribution Pharmaceutique (GPDP) in Casablanca, Morocco from 9th to 11th October 2019.

The first two successfully organised meetings of the Association took place in Lusaka, Zambia in November 2018 and Accra, Ghana in April 2019 where preparatory discussions were held including the adoption of the bylaws of the Association. These first two initial meetings were led by consultants from the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (IFPW) to ensure that the foundations of the APDA were properly laid in accordance with experience and internationally approved principles and best practices. ADPA's objective is to participate in the promotion and development of universal standards among African populations in the pharmaceutical distribution sector in particular and the Health sector in general.

The Constituent Assembly was an opportunity for participants from 16 African countries to discuss "means and action, likely to ensure greater participation in organizing medication distribution circuit and health products in Africa". These included ensuring, constantly, the quality of storage and delivery of medicines for Africans, exploring ways to enhance service and service delivery, strategies to drive down logistic costs and comprehensive support to enhance security, safety and integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain in Africa. The meeting also discussed ways to tackle unethical practices, the circulation of falsified or

counterfeited medication as well as any act of non-compliance with the regulatory provisions for the pharmaceutical supply chain in Africa.

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVES

Article VI (1), (2) and (3) of the Constitution of the APDA recognises two classes of Directors: Regional Association Directors and Regional Company Directors coming from the five regional blocks in Africa; North, South, East, West and Central Africa. Regional Association Directors consist of ten (10) executives of voting members who hold senior positions in national or Regional pharmaceutical wholesale/distribution associations, translating into two Directors each from the five regions of Africa whilst the Regional Company Directors consist of five (5) executives of voting members who hold senior positions in active pharmaceutical distribution companies in Africa, translating into One (1) director each from the five regional blocks.

At the end of its 3rd Constituent Assembly in Casablanca, Morocco on the 10th of October, 2019, the APDA elected the following Board Members and Executives; Mr. Lahcen Senhaji of Morocco as the Board Chairman, **Mr. Kofi Addo-Agyekum, Chief Executive Officer of Kofikrom Pharmacy Ltd and a Founding Member/National Executive Council Member of the Chamber of Pharmacy, Ghana** and Mr. Ken Accajou of Gabon as Co- Vice Chairmen and **Mr. Anthony Kwaku Ameka, the Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber of Pharmacy Ghana as Board member and Chairman of the newly constituted Finance Committee of the Board**. The other elected Board members came from Egypt, Tunisia, Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda and Algeria. Specially coopted organizations to assist the Board in its work included IFPW (USA), IQVIA and Advantage Health from France and Nigeria respectively. This currently elected Board serves for the next two years; 2019 – 2021, until the next elections of the Constituent Assembly.