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RÉPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE

PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL

Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, Universal Health Coverage and Insurance

Regional Conference on Universal Health Coverage in Lomé, Togo

Theme: *'Sharing experiences, pooling solutions: Towards accelerating UHC in Africa through peer learning'*

Terms of Reference

I. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a moral and strategic imperative at the heart of the global development agenda. The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution of 12 December 2012, urged Member States to make faster progress towards UHC, affirming that every individual, everywhere in the world, must have access to quality essential health services without the risk of financial hardship.

This ambition was reaffirmed on 25 September 2015 with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose Target 3.8 explicitly aims to "*ensure access for all to quality and affordable healthcare and health services*".

On 12 December 2017, the General Assembly proclaimed this date as the International Day of Universal Health Coverage (Resolution A/RES/72/138), calling on advocates of UHC each year to raise public awareness and urge leaders to invest more in resilient health systems. The first United Nations High-Level Meeting on UHC, held on 23 September 2019, resulted in a historic political declaration in which Member States reaffirmed their deep commitment to health for all. A second high-level meeting, held on 21 September 2023, served to reinvigorate progress and adopt a new political declaration recognising UHC as fundamental to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals.

Within the WHO African Region (AFRO), UHC is consistently listed among the priority areas for action by decision-making bodies. The Regional Committee, a decision-making body that brings together the health ministers of the 47 Member States annually, adopts resolutions that guide national and regional health policies towards stronger and more resilient health systems. It is within this framework that the Togolese Republic has undertaken major structural reforms to accelerate its progress towards UHC; these include:

- The introduction of a health insurance scheme for civil servants and equivalent staff in 2011;
- The inclusion of UHC as a national priority in the government's 2020–2025 roadmap;
- The explicit inclusion of "universal health coverage and insurance" in the name of the Ministry of Health;

- The effective implementation of the law establishing the Universal Health e Insurance (AMU) since January 2024, serving as a key driver of national health policy, social inclusion and the strengthening of the economic resilience of the population;
- The launch of cover for the informal sector (self-employed workers) in October 2025;
- The introduction of medical assistance programmes to support the integration of vulnerable people without an income.

Building on this momentum and in line with the vision of the President of the Council, His Excellency Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE, for equitable and sustainable access to healthcare for all, the Togolese Republic wishes, with the support of the WHO Regional Office (AFRO), to organise a regional conference in Lomé on 11 and 12 December 2026. This conference aims to share Togo's experience – successes, challenges and lessons learnt – whilst providing a platform for peer-to-peer exchange to accelerate Universal Health Coverage (UHC) across the African Region.

II. OBJECTIVES

Overall objective

The overall objective of this conference is to create a space for dialogue and peer-to-peer learning to accelerate the implementation of UHC policies, building on Togo's achievements and the experiences of other countries.

Specific objectives

More specifically, the conference will aim to:

1. Document and share Togo's journey towards UHC:
   a. Universal Health Coverage (UHC): strategies for extending coverage to the formal and informal sectors and to vulnerable populations;
   b. Improving the availability of high-quality healthcare and services focused on primary healthcare (PHC);
2. Facilitating South-South exchanges on innovative mechanisms for health financing and social protection;
3. Identifying concrete solutions for the inclusion of vulnerable, non-contributory populations;
4. Formulating operational recommendations to strengthen health systems based on Primary Health Care (PHC).
5. Mark the 2026 International Day of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with a strong political mobilisation in favour of health for all in Africa.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the Conference, the following outcomes are expected:

1. **Documented sharing of experiences**:
   a. Presentation of the Togolese model
      - Background, process, results, challenges and lessons learnt from Togo's universal health cover process: INAM, School AMU, WEZOU, AMU, cover for the informal sector, the destitute and vulnerable
      - Strengthening the provision of quality healthcare: digitalisation, the private sector, construction/renovation, community participation, etc.
      - Strengthening of multisectoral action for health promotion.
   b. Feedback from at least 10 African countries.

2. **Strategic and technical recommendations**: Development of a roadmap for WHO support to countries wishing to extend their coverage to workers in the informal sector and to vulnerable populations;
3. **Lomé Declaration**: Adoption of a ministerial declaration reaffirming Member States' commitment to accelerating UHC, in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the guidelines of the AFRO Regional Committee, with a focus on the inclusion of vulnerable populations;
4. **Strengthened networking**: Establishment of a network of UHC focal points for monitoring and sharing best practice.

IV. DATE AND VENUE

- **Date**: 11 and 12 December 2026
- **Venue**: Hôtel 2 Février, Lomé, Togolese Republic.

V. PARTICIPANTS

The following participants are expected to attend this forum:

- Ministers of Health, Finance and Social Protection from AFRO Member States (priority will be given to countries undertaking similar reforms);
- Representatives from the WHO Regional Office (AFRO) and Headquarters;
- WHO Togo Country Team;
- Representatives of technical and financial partners (World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, CFF, BOAD, African Development Bank, European Union, OOAS, etc.);
- Social security institutions, health insurance funds and private insurance companies in the CIPRES and CIMA zones;

- Civil society organisations working in the field of health and social protection;
- Technical experts and academics.

VI. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The conference will adopt an interactive and participatory approach:

1. **Formal opening ceremony**: Speeches by Togolese authorities, the WHO Representative and the World Bank Resident Representative in Togo.
2. **Plenary session**: 'The Togolese experience': Detailed presentation of the national journey (INAM, School Assur/AMU, WEZOU, AMU, coverage of the informal sector, challenges facing vulnerable groups), highlighting the foundations and operational mechanisms of the AMU as developed in capacity-building programmes for stakeholders.
3. **Thematic round tables**:
    a. **Roundtable 1**: Sustainable financing of UHC – From the formal sector to the inclusion of informal workers;
    b. **Roundtable 2**: Targeting and reaching vulnerable populations: mechanisms for identification, registration and funding;
    Roundtable 3: Strengthening the provision of quality care: construction, equipping and maintenance of infrastructure and equipment; quality assurance in care; digitalisation; community participation; the private sector;
    Roundtable 4: Strengthening health promotion initiatives;
    Roundtable 5: Governance and the institutional framework for UHC:
    lessons from Togo and other countries.
4. **"Country Mirror" session**: Presentations by 3 to 4 invited countries to share their own progress and challenges (peer-to-peer format).
5. **High-level panel**: Commitments from technical and financial partners to support the next phase of UHC in Africa.
6. **Finalisation and adoption of the Lomé Declaration.**
7. **Closing reception** (to mark International Day).

VII. AGENDA

Timetable	Activities	Speakers / Moderators
10 December 2026		
3.00 pm – 7.00 pm	Welcome and registration of participants	
11 December 2026		

08.30 – 09.00	Continued welcome and registration of participants	Organising Committee
09.00 – 10.30	**Opening ceremony**	Master of Ceremonies
	Welcome address	
	Interlude 1	
	Introductory remarks by the WHO Representative for Africa	Representative
	Address by the World Bank Representative	Representative
	Message from the UN Secretary-General on the occasion of International UHS Day	UN Resident Representative
	Interlude 2	
	Official opening address	Senior Togolese official
	Group photo	
10.30 am – 11.00 am	**Coffee break**	Organising Committee
11.00 am – 12.00 pm	**Plenary session:** Togo's journey towards UHC	
	From INAM to AMU: foundations, legal framework and operational mechanisms	
	Focus on specific programmes: School Assur/AMU and Wezou, integration of vulnerable people without income	
	- Strengthening the provision of quality healthcare: digitalisation, the private sector, construction/rehabilitation/maintenance of infrastructure and equipment, and community participation. - Strengthening multisectoral action to promote health	
	Interactive debate	
12.00 – 13.00	**Roundtable 1:** Innovative financing and the expansion of health coverage	
	Country experiences (Senegal, Ghana, Rwanda, etc.)	Panel of 3 ministers or representatives
	Role of technical and financial partners	World Bank / AfDB
	Interactive discussion	
1.00 pm – 2.30 pm	**Lunch**	Organising Committee
2.30 pm – 4.00 pm	**Roundtable 2:** Reaching vulnerable populations	
	Identification, targeting and funding mechanisms	
	The role of digital platforms and the social register	
	The role of civil society, mutual societies and communities	
	Interactive discussion	
	Roundtable 3: Strengthening the provision of quality healthcare: construction, equipment, maintenance,	

	quality assurance, digitalisation, community participation, the private sector	
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	**Coffee break**	
4.30 pm – 5.30 pm	**Round Table 4:** Strengthening health promotion initiatives	
	Round Table 5: Governance and the institutional framework of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) (structure and role of the various bodies, organisation of regulation, etc.): lessons from Togo and other countries	
	Interactive discussion	
12 December 2026		
8.30 am – 9.00 am	**Summary of Day 1**	
9.00 am – 10.00 am	**High-level panel:** Commitments to accelerating Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Africa: Presentations by partners (World Bank, WHO, GIZ, GAVI, Global Fund, EU, etc.)	**Moderator: WHO Resident Representative**
10.00 am – 10.45 am	**Summary of discussions and reading of the draft Lomé Declaration**	**General Rapporteur**
10.45 am – 11.30 am	**Closing ceremony**	
	Adoption of the Lomé Declaration	Participants
	Interlude	
	Closing address	Togolese authorities
11.30 am – 1.30 pm	Sightseeing tour	
6.00 pm – 9.00 pm	Dinner to mark International University Staff Day	