



THE 5th NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AIDS
KAKANFO INN AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, JOYCE B ROAD, OFF RING
ROAD, IBADAN, OYO STATE FROM 1ST TO 3RD APRIL 2019

COMMUNIQUE

OPENING

The 5th National Council on AIDS with the theme “Beyond NAIIS: Planning, Resourcing and Taking Action to Achieve the 95:95:95 Targets,” held at the prestigious Kakanfo Inn and Conference Centre, Ibadan, Oyo State, from the 1st to 3rd of April, 2019. The event was organised by the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) and hosted by the Government of Oyo State.

The National Council on AIDS considered memoranda submitted by stakeholders on various issues bothering on the national response to HIV in Nigeria, and agreed on policy resolutions to enhance the coordination and implementation of intervention programmes for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Nigeria. Memos were treated under four (4) sub-themes during the 5th NCA: 1) Systems Strengthening; 2) Coordination and Governance; 3) Resourcing and Financing of the HIV Response; and 4) Programmes.

The 5th National Council on AIDS was a three-day event and was attended by over 310 participants including the Executive Governor of Oyo State Distinguished Senator Abiola Ajimobi ably represented by the Commissioner of Health Dr. Azeez Adeduntan; Wife of the Executive Governor of Oyo State Her Excellency, Dr. (Mrs.) Florence Ajimobi; Wife of the Deputy Governor of Oyo State Her Excellency Chief (Mrs.) Janet Adeyemo; representative of the Honourable Minister of Health Dr. Araoye Segilola; Distinguished Senator Mao Ohuabunwa Chairman of Senate Committee on Primary Healthcare and Communicable Diseases, and representatives of the National Assembly; the Chairperson of the NACA Board Her Excellency Dame Pauline Tallen and Members of the NACA Board; the Director General and Staff of NACA; Secretaries to State Government of Kogi and Katsina States, Honourable Commissioners and representatives of State Governments; Chief Executive Officers, Directors General/Executive Secretaries and staff of Agencies for the Control of AIDS from 36 states and the FCT; Executive Secretaries/National Presidents and representatives of umbrella bodies of Civil Society Organisations and Non-Governmental organisations involved with HIV and AIDS; National President of People Living With HIV in Nigeria, heads and representatives of constituent bodies of persons living with HIV in Nigeria; representatives of Media organisations, MDAs and Faith-based organisations; and representatives of the United Nations system, representative of PEPFAR, Development partners, Implementing partners, and others.

TECHNICAL SESSION

The 5th NCA was preceded by a 2-day Technical Session, which held on the 1st and 2nd April 2019 under the Chairmanship of the Director General of NACA, Dr. Sani Aliyu. The Session was opened by the wife of the Executive Governor of Oyo state and Chairperson of the State Agency for the Control of AIDS (Oyo SACA), Her Excellency Dr. (Mrs.) Florence Ajimobi. A key presentation on the results of the National AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS) was made to set the tone for reflections and discussions on memoranda submitted by stakeholders. A total of sixty-seven (67) memoranda submitted by stakeholders were considered. At the conclusion of proceedings, ten (10) memos were recommended for Council consideration and approval; ten (10) memos were recommended for Council notification; four (4) memos were deferred to the next Council meeting; seven (7) memos were withdrawn; and thirty-six (36) memos were stepped-down. The Technical session observed the non-specificity of the prayers of several memos and urged stakeholders to improve on the quality and clarity of memos submitted to the Council.

COUNCIL SESSION

The Council meeting held on the 3rd of April 2019 and was opened by the representative of the Executive Governor of Oyo State and Commissioner of Health, Dr. Azeez Adeduntan. The event was graced by the wife of the Executive Governor of Oyo State and Chairperson of Oyo SACA Dr. (Mrs.) Florence Ajimobi, and was chaired by the Director General of NACA, Dr. Sani Aliyu.

The meeting commenced with the introduction of members in Council and setting the procedure for the meeting by Dr. Akudo Ikpeazu, Director Resource Mobilisation and Performance Management Division of NACA. The Chair of the technical committee, Mr. Alex Ogundipe, read the summary of all the presentations made at the Technical Session. Council appreciated the presentations, recommendations and the feedback by participants at the Council session.

The proceedings and the status of implementation of the 4th NCA were adopted as amended by the Council. At the conclusion of proceedings, the Council approved a total of nine (9) memos.

Subsequent to the above and as a result of all the issues considered, the 5th National Council on AIDS approved the following resolutions:

Recommended Memoranda for Council Consideration and Approval

1. **Memo NCA/05/001:** Memorandum on the status of implementation of resolutions of the 4th National Council meeting (**DG NACA**).

Resolution: Council adopted and approved the memo on implementation of the 4th NCA resolutions.

2. **Memo NCA/05/003:** Memorandum on sustaining supportive efforts to achieving the lowering of age of consent for AYPLHIV access to HIV and SRHR services (**APYIN**).

Resolution: Council approved prayers 1 and 2 to support efforts of lowering the age of consent for AYPLHIV access to HIV and SRHR services.

3. **Memo NCA/05/004:** Memorandum on the need to promote HIV self-testing among populations at high risk and hard to reach in Nigeria (**Heartland Alliance Ltd/GTE**).

Resolution: Council approved prayers 1 to 6 of the memo to work towards the availability and promotion of HIV self-testing in the country.

4. **Memo NCA/05/011:** Memorandum on strengthening the implementation of Index Case Testing (ICT) services along the HIV continuum of care (**APIN Public Health Initiative**).

Resolution: Council approved prayers 1 to 3 to promote Index Case Testing services along the HIV continuum of care.

5. **Memo NCA/05/016:** Memorandum on improving client retention on ART through intensified provider- client interactions for the ARV naïve and the establishment of strong ART treatment adherence and support system at service delivery points in Nigeria (**FHi360**).

Resolution: Council approved prayers 1 to 5 to ensure enhanced quality of HIV treatment in the country.

6. **Memo NCA/05/017:** Memorandum on need to ensure the availability of viral load testing for all PLHIV clients on ART in all states in Nigeria (**Kwara SACA**).

Resolution: Council did not approve the prayers because State Government do not have adequate capacity to establish Viral Load Testing Centres. Council called on State Governments to rather invest in HIV testing and support existing laboratories offering Viral Load Testing services within the various States.

7. **Memo NCA/05/044:** Memorandum on enhancing HIV/ AIDS sustainable financing and elimination of user fees through domestic resource mobilization (**Health Policy Plus - HP+**).

Resolution: Council approved prayers 1 to 6 to work towards sustainable HIV/ AIDS financing in the country.

8. **Memo NCA/05/045:** Memorandum on the need for fund allocation for rapid bench side PCR analysis to improve on PMTCT services (**Kaduna SACA**).

Resolution: Council approved prayers 1 to 3 to support the mobilisation of funds for adequate PCR analysis and improvement of PMTCT services.

9. **Memo NCA/05/057:** Memorandum on optimization of GeneXpert platform for EID, HIV and HCV VL assays (**IHVN**).

Resolution: Council approved that GeneXpert platforms be optimized for integrated multi-disease testing.

10. **Memo NCA/05/061:** Memorandum on the need for Nigeria to bid to host the 21st International Conference on HIV/AIDS AND STIs in Africa 2021 (**NACA**).

Resolution: Council approved that Nigeria bids to host the International Conference on HIV/AIDS AND STIs in Africa 2021.

The Communique of the 5th National Council on AIDS was read by Dr. Kayode Ogungbemi, Director Policy, Planning and Coordination of NACA and formally adopted by the Council.


CLOSING

The Director General of NACA, Dr. Sani Aliyu, gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the Council. The Council appreciated the support and hospitality extended to it by the Government and people of Oyo State. Council further appreciated the role of Development Partners in the HIV and AIDS response, the media and other stakeholders for their contribution towards the success of the meeting.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, announced the approval for the 6th NCA to hold in Kaduna State, representing the North West geopolitical zone. Council also approved the hosting right of the 7th NCA for Akwa Ibom State, representing the South South geopolitical zone. The actual dates for the meetings will be communicated to all stakeholders once finalised.

The 5th Session of the NCA was formally closed with remarks by Her Excellency, Wife of the Executive Governor of Oyo State, Dr. (Mrs.) Florence Ajimobi (JP).

Signed


Dr. Sani Aliyu
Council Chairman & Director General
National Agency for the Control of AIDS