

EVENTS

The General Managers of the Essential Drugs Trading Groups, members of the ACAME (African Association of Essential Drugs Trading Groups) solemnly launched the “**Dakar Declaration**” on 8 December 2006 to involve their respective supervising authorities, partners and donors. In this declaration, they express an opinion on the substitution of Trading Groups by United Nations Agencies and by Western Non Governmental Organizations.

The ACAME has invited health development partners and donors to participate in an International Conference that will be held on **19 June 2007** in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, where the ACAME is headquartered. PSFCI is invited to participate as a partner that has always supported the steps taken by trading groups.

DAKAR DECLARATION

Preamble:

The General Managers of the Essential Drugs Trading Groups, members of the ACAME (African Association of Essential Drugs Trading Groups), meeting this day in Dakar, would like to remind the mission entrusted to them by the authorities of their respective countries:

This mission consists in supplying, to bodies authorized by their supervising Ministries, quality generic essential drugs as well as medical and surgical consumables registered on the National Lists of their respective countries, at affordable price for the populations.

This mission includes assessing needs, undertaking contracts, control, storage and supply, in compliance with the countries pharmaceutical policy requirements.

ACAME's General Managers meeting in Dakar, however, is concerned by the exclusion of most Trading Groups from drug supply to programmes related to the three priority diseases: antiretroviral drugs (ARV), new combined artemisia-based antimalarial drugs (ACT), and tuberculosis drugs.

Therefore, they solemnly call upon their respective supervising authorities, health development partners and donors as follows:

National supply systems sustainability:

Article 1:

ACAME recommends that the implementation of any essential drugs supply programme in Africa, including programmes related to the provision of drugs used for the treatment of the priority diseases mentioned in the preamble, be part of the concerted approach leading to the strengthening and sustainability of national supply systems.

Provisional nature of the substitution of Trading Groups by United Nations Agencies or by Western Non Governmental Organizations:

Article 2:

The decision to substitute Trading Groups by United Nations Agencies or Western Non Governmental Organizations, regarding priority programmes' essential drugs management and/or supply, is considered to be contrary to:

- the basic principles relating to national capacity building of developing countries
- the rationalization of existing supply systems
- the pharmaceutical requirements

Article 3:

This decision shall be only provisional and shall be replaced as soon as possible by a strategy for use and national Trading Group capacity building.

Trading Groups Assessment

Article 4:

ACAME recommends that Trading Group assessment be made within a concerted framework, which further comprehensively mainstreams drug and environment context within which the Trading Groups evolve, and be documented in a detailed report, providing accompanying measures in case possible failures have been recorded.

Developing a strategic plan for standardization and Trading Groups development

Article 5:

In the light of the outcomes of the Trading Group assessments made by health development partners, ACAME has decided to develop a strategic plan for Trading Groups standardization and development.

Article 6:

This strategic plan shall define the assets and weaknesses of Trading Groups as well as the tailored measures to be implemented for each of them, including measures related either to the institutional and legal aspects, operational and quibbling aspects or aspects related to human or financial resources.

ACAME and Health Development Partners Conference

Article 7:

ACAME calls upon Authorities, Partners and Donors to politically and financially support this strategy.

Article 8:

ACAME plans to organise by the end of the semester of the year 2007 in Ouagadougou a Conference with all Health Development Partners and Donors to hold constructive discussions on the following:

- broad lines of its strategic plan,
- best ways to support its implementation,
- involvement of partners within the Trading Groups monitoring committee.

Done in Dakar on December 8th, 2006

The General Managers of Essential Drugs Trading Groups, members of ACAME:

CAME Bénin, CAMEG Burkina Faso, CAMEBU Burundi, CENAME Cameroun, PNAC Comores, COMEG Congo, PSP Côte d'Ivoire, OPN Gabon, CECOME Guinée Bissau, PCG Guinée Conakry, PPM Mali, CAMEC Mauritanie, SALAMA Madagascar, ONPPC Niger, UCM République Centrafricaine, CAMERWA Rwanda, PNA Sénégal, CPA Tchad, CAMEG Togo.

This year, **the 8th international pharmaceutical forum** organised under the aegis of the *Inter Ordre des Pharmaciens d'Afrique* (IOPA), the *Inter Syndicale des Pharmaciens d'Afrique* (ISPHARMA) and the *Association des Centrales d'Achat des Médicaments Essentiels* (ACAME) will be held in Lomé (Togo) from 6-8 June. The forum will be entirely focussed on an issue of capital importance: "the illegal medicine market in Africa", trade and economic issues, consequences on public health and on legal production, supply and distribution structures. For further information <http://www.fpil2007.tg/index.php>

The 15th **List of Essential Medicines** has now been made available on the Medicines web site at: <http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/EML15.pdf>

A plan on the **production of pharmaceuticals in Africa** was presented at the 3rd session of the African Union Conference of Health Ministers held from 9-13 April 2007 in Johannesburg, South africa.

http://www.africa-union.org/root/UA/Conferences/2007/avril/SA/9-13%20avr/doc/en/PHARMACEUTICAL_MIN_DRAFT.pdf

Lack of knowledge of the strategies implemented in Developing Countries

Odd proposal from the new government of this northern country: it wants to offer tax incentives to pharmaceutical companies donating unused drugs from their own stockpiles (production excesses?) to help support strategies implemented in developing countries?????

There is overwhelming evidence for the negative effects of drug donations. What developing countries need is assistance in strengthening existing national supply systems for quality essential medicines; assistance that respects their National Drug Policies, health plans and professional competence.

This year, the Medical Industry (**LEEM**) proposes a very important theme for the meeting of French-speaking delegations held during the 60th World Health Assembly, on 13 May at the Intercontinental hotel in Geneva (5:30 pm). The theme is “access to quality medicines and primary health care“.

The **Prescrire** issue of April 2007 denounces the abusive transposition of a European directive to France <http://www.prescrire.org/aLaUne/dossierObservanceFirmes.php>

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