

# **AFRO-EUROPEAN MEDICAL AND RESEARCH NETWORK (AEMRN)**



[www.aemrnetwork.ch](http://www.aemrnetwork.ch)

## **Concept paper for AEMRN Annual 2017 AEMRN Projects^ Experience Sharing Conference on SDGs with focus on Universal Health Coverage (UHC)...Leaving no one behind**

Place : United Nations Palais des Nations, Geneva

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 hrs. daily

### **Background of Afro-European Medical and Research Network (AEMRN)**

The Afro-European Medical and Research Network, a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization was founded with a strong vision of helping to improve the quality of life for people from, and living in, resource limited settings. AEMRN has Bern-Switzerland as its overall headquarters, Sierra Leone as its Africa regional headquarters and at the moment there are active executive members in all Sub-Saharan countries and focal points in all the continents around the world.

- AEMRN members strive to contribute to the medical, mental, social, educational needs and support the sound well-being of mankind irrespective of race, creed, beliefs, faith and social affiliation.
- We serve as platform where active professionals from such disciplines as education, medicine, engineering, nursing, faith-based and so on can interact at various levels of self-initiated conferences, seminars, workshops, exchange programmes and voluntary work camps including medical camps with mobile clinics combined with continuous medical education (CME) and continuous professional development.
- Members always endeavour to share ideas and knowledge for the betterment of the less fortunate colleagues in resource poor settings.
- We focus heavily on the SDGs especially on the Universal Health Coverage and leaving no one behind. As a team, we will reach out to needy communities, offer them our services whilst at the same time fostering and promoting cross-cultural exchange and global peace.

- We link individuals across countries willing to learn from each other and share their knowledge so that together we can address our challenges and improve the work that we do in our countries.
- AEMRN members strive to contribute their knowledge and experience to improve the quality of their work so that the people they interact with benefit from improved performance.

## **Justification**

Achieving the above goals needs effective team work to mobilise individuals across the world to share our vision and actively participate in project supporting the SDGs so we can complement efforts of the United Nations and sub-agencies in achieving the 2030 deadline of Universal Health Coverage.

## **Purpose of AEMRN Projects' Experience Sharing Conference on SDGs with focus on Universal Health Coverage...Leaving no one behind**

It is normally said as an African proverb that “if you want to travel fast you go alone and if you want to go far you walk together as a group.”

Hence in this regard, AEMRN and our collaborators always strive to promote team work as together and through generation, sharing and utilization of knowledge and experiences, we can make huge differences in the lives of people in hard to reach communities in middle and low-income countries. It was with the idea that the experience Sharing conference was conceptualized to acknowledge and build upon our successes and also at the same time debate our challenges in the implementation of our various projects. The conference has been organized twice – 2012 und 2013 - at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva and in 2016 at the United Nations Palais des Nations in Geneva.

## **Objectives of the conference**

- Review the success and challenges of managing projects in low and middle-income countries especially Sub-Saharan Africa with special focus on the medical missions and mobile clinics with a wide range of collaborators.
- Present the analysis and outcomes of projects and initiatives from AEMRN and other partners for lessons learnt and seek collaboration for scaling-up of same.
- Identify synergies and common areas of interest with NGOs, departments within the United Nations and sub-agencies such as the WHO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP etc. to maximize outputs for the benefit of the people we serve in low-income countries.
- To support AEMRN and partners create a knowledge management strategy to improve access to information, resources and support knowledge networking and optimize sharing of project ideas and initiatives.

- Find and share existing knowledge and resources and create a common strategy that improves access to information and much needed resources in complementing efforts of achieving the UHC addresses any of the components:
  - National Health Policies
  - Service delivery and safety
  - Health workforce
  - Health financing for universal coverage
  - Essential medicines and health products
  - Health statistics and information systems

## **Methodology**

The two days conference will be informal, but will be opened by key note address and presentations that will set the scene for a brain storming session.

There will be breakout sessions addressing challenges in mobilising resources for projects with special tips on grant writing. The outcome from the sessions will be collated during a plenary feedback session and key activities will be prioritized, and issues discussed.

The secretariat will prepare the final strategy and highlights of the conference, which will be shared with all participants.

## **Participants and targeted audience:**

The following institutions and entities will be invited:

- Department within the United Nations and its sub-Agencies and affiliated bodies
- Ministries of Health and other Government agencies
- Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) globally
- Community based organisations.
- Faith based organisations.
- AEMRN collaborators and country representatives.
- Representatives from Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva, Embassies and consulates.
- Migrant population living in Switzerland from the different cantons.
- Participants from countries in Africa, West and Eastern Europe, USA, Canada, Asia and Latin America.
- Key players in time of health and other disasters such as armed forces: police, military, fire force, paramilitary etc.
- University students and students from other institutions and youth organisation socio-cultural clubs.