

**COMMUNIQUÉ/DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 14TH BIENNIAL
GENERAL MEETING AND 23RD SCIENTIFIC SESSION AND 37TH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD FROM JULY 1-8, 2017 AT THE ECOWAS CENTRE AT
ABUJA, NIGERIA**

**14TH Biennial General Meeting, 23RD Scientific Session/
37th Council meeting held at the
ECOWAS Conference Centre
Plot 101 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro, Abuja Nigeria
July 1- 8, 2017**

COMMUNIQUE

1. The 37th Council, 14th Biennial General Meeting (BGM) and 23rd Scientific Session of the West African College of Nursing took place at the ECOWAS Conference Centre at Plot 101 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro, Abuja, Nigeria from July 1- 8, 2017. Six countries (Benin Republic, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) participated with a total 470 nurses/midwives and 3 student nurses.
2. The official opening ceremony was held on Tuesday July 4th, 2017 and flagged off by Professor Isaac Adewole who doubled as the Nigeria Minister of Health and able representative of the Nigeria Acting President Professor Yemi Osinbajo. In his address, he thanked the WACN for honouring him and promised to make a faithful nurse. He finally gave the message from the Acting President.
3. The distinguished guests present at the opening ceremony included the Hon. Minister of Health of Nigeria, Prof Isaac Adewole, The wife of the Acting President of Nigeria, Mrs. Dolapo Osinbajo, Prof. Al- Hassan Conteh, Ambassador of Liberia, ECOWAS Commissioner in Nigeria, Stephen Nartey, WAHO Director General represented by Monsieur Effossou Jean Kablan, WHO Africa Regional Adviser for Health Workforce Development, Dr Magda Awases, JHPIEGO Director of Global Learning/Director of Nursing & Midwifery, Dr Peter Johnson, among others.
4. Observers from six Francophone countries of Burkina Faso, Cote 'Ivoire, Senegal, Mali, Cameroun and Togo were in attendance and were duly recognized.

The keynote address based on the theme “Emerging Health Emergencies: Community and Health Workforce Response in the Sub-Region” was delivered by Prof Uduak Archibong, Fellow, WACN and Professor of Diversity from the University of Bradford,, United Kingdom.

5. The President of the West African College of Nursing Monsieur Victor Dossou Zoclanclounon read his Presidential address.

6. Goodwill messages were received from the following:

- a. West African College of Physicians
- b. West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists
- c. Jhpiego
- d. WHO
- e. National Health Insurance Scheme
- f. Royal College of Nursing, U.K.

7. The following officers were elected as new executive Council members of the West African College of Nursing (WACN} for the year 2017 – 2019:

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| • Mrs. Fatoumata Jarrai Daffeh | President (The Gambia) |
| • Dr. Ijeoma L. Okoronkwo | Secretary General (Nigeria) |
| • Prof. (Mrs) Faustina Oware –Gyekye | 1 st Vice President (Ghana) |
| • Mrs. Shirley Fahnbulleh | 2 nd Vice President (Liberia) |
| • Mrs. Margaret James | Honorary Treasurer (Sierra Leone) |
| • Monsieur Victor Dossou Zoclanclounon | Immediate Past President (Benin) |

8. The programme featured 6 plenary presentations and 31 concurrent scientific paper presentations from Monday July 3- Thursday July 7, 2017

The plenary sessions featured:

1. Assessment on knowledge and attitude regarding premarital HIV and haemoglobin genotype testing among adolescents in tertiary institution.
2. Knowledge, attitude and practices towards Ebola virus disease (EVD) among residents of Palladan, Zaria, Kaduna Northern Nigeria.
3. Incidence of 2014 Cholera outbreak recorded at the Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC) sited at Abubarkar Tafawa Balewa University, Nigeria.
4. Mechanical ventilation: An expanded critical care nurses’ role

5. Emerging health emergencies: Infant and Young Child Feeding
6. Health Technology and its Application in the Health Care Industry.

SUB-THEMES

- **Emerging Health Emergencies and Population Health:**
 - Socio-cultural determinants of fertility among the Mandinka tribe in rural Gambia
- **Protection of Healthcare Workers during Conflicts and Insurgencies:**
 - Protection of health care workers in conflict situations: need for enhanced recognition of security risk to local health care providers
- **Health Workforce and Task Shifting:**
 - Academic – service partnership an answer to clinical workforce
 - Knowledge, attitude and use of recommended 2013 clinical guidelines in sedation – analgesia among care providers in intensive care units of teaching hospitals in Nigeria
 - Application of the rapid task analysis methodology of strengthening the competency based curriculum for midwifery pre-service education in Liberia
 - The Rapid Assessment Tool (RAT) strengthening Midwifery pre-service Education Liberia.
 - Assessment of impact of burnout on nursing productivity in acute care setting in University College Hospital Ibadan, Nigeria
 - Healthcare Provider” perceived barriers to effective administration of prescribed antibiotics to inpatient in National Orthopaedic Hospital Enugu, Nigeria
 - Addressing inequities in health research capacity in Nigeria: Nurses and Midwives Perspective
 - Nursing care of Patients during the end of Life in Sub-Saharan African: A systematic Review.
- **Emerging Impact of Non-Communicable Diseases**
 - Prevalence of Non-Modifiable Risk Factors of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus among Adults.
 - Health – related quality of Life (HRQOL) of diabetes Mellitus Patients and Non-Diabetic Persons in Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria
 - Emerging impact of non-communicable diseases: Health Economic and Development Challenges
 - The Menace of Non-Communicable Diseases in Nigeria: Role of the Nurse
- **Emerging Health Emergencies: Infant and Young Child Feeding:**
 - Socio-Cultural Factor Influencing the Choice of Infant Feeding Options among HIV Positive Mothers in Lagos, Nigeria.
- **Sexual-abuse related Emergencies: Role of Adolescent and Sexuality Care Providers:**
 - Student Nurses and health Educators’ access and Utilization of Reproductive Health Information and Services in the University of Benin, Nigeria
 - Sexual –abuse related emergencies: Role of Adolescents and Sexuality Care Providers.
 - Knowledge of cause and strategies used in prevention sexual violence among university students in Nigeria Delta region of Nigeria

- **Community and Health Workforce Response to Rape and Gender-Based Violence: Challenge in Conflict Situations:**
 - Opinions and Perceptions on wife battery among married women in Wellingara, The Gambia
 - Sexual exploitation in Liberia: The Challenge for health workers and society.
 - **Private Sector and Health System Financing for Universal Health Coverage**
 - Influence of the health care financing methods on reducing maternal and infant mortality rates in The Gambia
 - Nurse led initiative promote access to care of rural dwellers
 - **Innovative Healthcare Approaches: Role of Mobile Solutions in Universal Health Coverage:**
 - Awareness and acceptance of telenursing practice among nurses in tertiary health institution in Imo State
 - Efficacy of telephone call reminders and recalls in improvement of uptake of routine immunization services by mothers in Taraba State Nigeria
 - **PHC, the Key to Universal Health Coverage in the Sub-region:**
 - A model of community engagement to facilitate the prevention of maternal health complications in the rural areas of Cross River State, Nigeria
 - Determinants of referral practices of clients by traditional birth attendants in Northern Cross River State Niger
 - Nurses involvement in school health programme in Ogun State, Nigeria
 - Self-perception of school Age children with Nocturnal Enuresis
 - Substance abuse and its ramification among adolescent females in Sabon Gari area, Kano State
9. The WACN 5year Strategic Plan for (2018- 2022) was presented and adopted: We invite the governments of member countries to assist the WACN in the implementation of this laudable 5year Strategic Plan, which is the first since the inception of the College.
10. WACN Fellowship is now a four year post graduate programme. It is domiciled at the Department of Nursing University of Ibadan for now. The minimum entry requirement is 1st degree in Nursing.
- Member countries are encouraged to provide suitable academic environment for the take up of the Fellowship programme in their country.
 - We appeal to the governments and ministries of Health of member countries to approve WACN clinical/residency programme.
 - The government of the member countries to approve and give legal backing to the WACN consultancy programme and to accord appropriate recognition and remuneration for Fellows.

11. The West African College of Nursing 14th Biennial General Meeting (BGM), 23rd Scientific Session and 37th Council Meeting ended on Friday July 7, 2017 with a banquet and induction of the 18th President of the West African College of Nursing (WACN), Mrs. Fatoumata Jarrai Daffeh from The Gambia.

12. The West African College of Nursing (WACN) expresses gratitude to the Government of Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Benin Republic, especially, the government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the warm reception accorded the delegates during their stay in Nigeria.

13. The College decided to hold the 15th BGM and 24th Scientific Session in March 2019 in Sierra Leone.

Signed:

Signed:

Date:

Date:

MONSIEUR VICTOR DOSSOU ZOCLANCLOUNON

COL. MONICA ANDOH

President, WACN

Secretary General, WACN

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At the end of the meeting with the THEME “*EMERGING HEALTH EMERGENCIES: COMMUNITY AND HEALTH WORKFORCE RESPONSE IN THE SUB-REGION*”, the following decisions and resolutions were reached:

- DR01 The College acknowledges the various contributions of governments of the member states and development agencies especially Who, WAHO, ECOWAS and Jhpiego towards the success of the BGM.
- DR02 JHPIEGO committed itself to collaborate with the WACN.
- DR03 The College to invite representatives from the WHO Headquarters in Geneva during our meetings.
- DR04 WACN to expand the pilot project of fellowship admission by examination being held in Nigeria to include other member countries.
- DR05 All nurses and midwives should be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- DR06 The election of College officers was conducted during the first day of the meeting for better acquaintance of members and presentation during the opening ceremony.
- DR07 All chapters were encouraged to purchase parcels of land for constructing guest houses.
- DR08 The observer group through a representative promised to join the WACN in the shortest possible time.
- DR09 WACN to form rapid response teams for the emerging emergencies and seek funding from partners for operation.
- DR10 WACN to collaborate with member governments to establish mobile health care system.
- DR11 Governments of member countries were admonished to protect nurses and midwives during conflict situations.
- DR12 WACN to collaborate with member governments to fight and prevent sexual violence.
- DR13 WACN to encourage intra-professional and inter-professional collaboration among healthcare providers in the Sub-Region.
- DR14 The College recognized some key personalities and certificated them for their contribution to health.

- DR15 WACN member governments to encourage and motivate nurses and midwives to take up assignments in rural communities.
- DR16 WACN 5 year draft Strategic Plan for 2018- 2022 was adopted.
- DR17 WACN to review and clarify the nomenclature of the present name of the College (College of Nursing or Nurses).
- DR18 WACN to determine the membership status of the Presidents of Nursing and Midwifery Associations.
- DR19 WACN to include clinical nurses in the supervision of the WACN residency programme.
- DR20 WACN to include the conduct of nursing rounds during residency program whereby student nurses will be part of such nursing ward rounds.
- DR21 WACN Secretariat to print out minutes of past meetings and distribute same prior to the BGM for better discussion.
- DR22 Governments of member countries to accord Fellows of WACN the same recognition as Fellows of sister Colleges.
- DR23 That the College encourages partnership and networking with groups and organisations that will enhance the visibility of the WACN and impact on the health of the people of the sub-region.
- DR23 The next BGM will be held in Sierra Leone in March 2019.

Signed:

Date:

MONSIEUR VICTOR DOSSOU ZOCLANCLOUNON

President, WACN

Signed:

Date:

COL. MONICA ANDOH

Secretary General, WACN

