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Countries Assemble to Form Pan-African Platform for Stronger Pharmaceutical Distribution

The creation of African Pharmaceutical Distribution Association (APDA) /
Association de la Distribution Pharmaceutique Africaine (ADPA)

At the conclusion of a 2nd meeting held on April 15, 2019 in Accra, bylaws for the **African Pharmaceutical Distribution Association (APDA)**, or in French, **Association de la Distribution Pharmaceutique Africaine (ADPA)** were developed and adopted by representatives from Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, and South Africa (in consultation with Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Morocco and others). This historic accomplishment followed an initial convening of the interested parties in Lusaka, Zambia on November 27, 2018 where the concept of establishing a pan-African association representing the interests and concerns of pharmaceutical distributors and wholesalers was validated.

The Association's purpose will be to advance the health standards of the peoples of Africa by convening representatives and interested stakeholders, from the pharmaceutical distribution sector, from the countries of the African Union. It's activities will include:

- developing and sharing best practices, ethical standards and quality objectives within the storage and distribution of healthcare products
- acquiring, interpreting and disseminating information on healthcare system performance and advancement;
- assisting in the development of more effective and efficient means of distributing pharmaceutical and health related products for the benefit of the general public;
- advocating for the pharmaceutical wholesale distribution channel to governments, manufacturers, suppliers and medicine dispensing entities in the distribution of drug and health related items; and
- co-operating with and contributing expertise to national and multinational organizations, both public and private, to promote the common interests of its members.
- leading initiatives to secure healthcare supply chains and prevent the infiltration of falsified or counterfeited products
- supporting efforts to establish national associations of wholesalers and distributors in Africa

The Association is a non-religious, non-political body and will not engage in or address such issues.

Increasing the efficiency of healthcare supply chains, improving the access and availability to safe and efficacious pharmaceuticals and promoting the development of trusted wholesale distribution partners all serve as a foundation for efforts towards Universal Health Care (UHC) and access to medicines for all.

The new Association is welcoming to all and a steering committee has been established to plan for a 3rd meeting which has been tentatively scheduled for September 2019 in a to-be-determined location. All of the organizational meetings to-date have been supported by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (IFPW), which is offering guidance on how an umbrella association of associations can be properly be organized and operated.

The Chamber of Pharmacy, Ghana played an instrumental role in organizing the 2nd meeting and served as host of the April 15th session.



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