CANCER CONTROL IN IGAD REGION...

Press release

Representatives of IGAD member states meeting in Addis Ababa in the Conference of Reproductive Health Cancer;

Reflecting on the World Health Organization 2007 report stating that cancer causes about 12.5% of all deaths worldwide;

Anticipating doubling of new cancer cases within the next 20 years; 70% of which will be accounted for by developing countries;

Acknowledging that most of the rise in Cancer incidence in IGAD region as well as the rest of Africa is attributed to HIV/AIDS epidemic, such as Kaposi’s sarcoma;

Noting the urgent need for a coordinated regional response; the conference has adopted the following set recommendations;

1. To establish Regional Cancer center of excellence in IGAD region in Ethiopia (to Promote, encourage and foster cancer control in IGAD region);
2. To establish National hub/center in each member state; each of which will endeavor to specialize in a given area (e.g. Uganda in CA CX, Kenya in CA Breast, Ethiopia CA Head and Neck, Djibouti in Soft tumors, Sudan in Brain);
3. IGAD will take the lead and to ensure the highest possible political commitment and recognition for cancer control within the region;
4. Establishment of IGAD Cancer Steering Committee composed of 1 member from each member state and ENAHPA with clear term of reference (the steering committee will assign a task force) (IGAD will follow up with member states to nominate the members), WHO, UNFPA to take an advisory role;
5. There is a need to consider the special situation in Somalia and to explore all possible ways to provide support to improve the Cancer Control;
6. To adopt the detailed recommendations of the conference as the base for a regional cancer control;
7. Conference participants made emphasis on the importance of the coming opportunity of Non-Communicable Diseases Summit, to take place in Sep 2011;

Addis Ababa, July 7, 2011