



Addressing the WHO sepsis resolution: A call for action to decrease the burden and improve outcomes of sepsis in Africa

Sepsis results when infections lead to vital organ failure and is responsible for killing over 6 million people per year worldwide. Sepsis does not discriminate against age, gender, religion, or geographic border. Talking of sepsis, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), recently said, *“the tragedy is that most of these deaths are preventable...”* Sepsis also results in major disability among survivors and has a significant economic impact worldwide.

On the 31st of January and 1st of February 2018, representatives of the Sudanese, African and Global Sepsis Alliances and the Khartoum State Ministry of Health met in Khartoum for an International Sepsis Conference, presided by Professor Mamoun Homeida, Khartoum State Minister of Health, Sudan.

Discussions led the participants to produce the following resolution:

Reaffirming the WHO World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution passed in May 2017, recognizing sepsis as a global health priority and recommending that all countries develop national action plans to improve prevention, recognition, management, and rehabilitation of sepsis;

Highlighting that the WHA sepsis resolution directly impacts the attainment of UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (i.e., “to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”);

Emphasizing the inherent links among infection prevention and control, antimicrobial resistance, and sepsis;

Noting the Kampala Declaration produced by the African Sepsis Alliance, African Federation of Critical Care Nurses, Global Sepsis Alliance, and World Federation of Critical Care Nurses in October 2017 called for commitment from African countries and international stakeholders to improve care for sepsis and severely ill patients in Africa;

Stressing that quality of sepsis care is a key indicator of overall performance for health systems. Efforts should therefore be made to collect sepsis-related data to enable continuous monitoring, evaluation, and improvement of sepsis outcomes;

Recognising the excellent work on advocacy, infection prevention, reducing antimicrobial resistance, undergraduate and postgraduate training, and development of practical guidelines by the Sudanese Sepsis Alliance.

Urges other African countries to develop similar initiatives with the support of the African Union;

Calls on a joint African Union and member state strategy for implementation of the WHA resolution on sepsis;

Proposes that the African Union supports a sepsis conference for African Ministers of Health with the support of the Sudanese, African, and Global Sepsis Alliances and the WHO. This conference should be held within 12 months and can be held in Sudan, hosted by the Khartoum State Minister for Health and chaired by the WHO Director General.