

---

**CONCEPT NOTE and AGENDA****“Consultation on Cross-Border MoU for NTD Elimination”****Monday, 22 September 2025, 12:00-13:30 CET (UTC+2)***Simultaneous interpretation in English and French***Register at this [link](#)**

**Background:** Significant progress has been made over the past decade on the African continent in the fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). As of May 2025, 57 countries have eliminated at least one NTD. The year 2025 marks the halfway point towards achieving the targets set in WHO’s NTD road map 2021–2030 and the African Union’s Continental Framework on the control and elimination of NTDs in Africa by 2030. With so much at stake and with a shifting global health funding landscape, this critical moment calls for renewed urgency and sustained elimination gains, investment and surveillance. In times of financial crisis, the role of countries leading and financing the fight against NTDs is more crucial than ever, as it enables nations to prioritize and tailor solutions that are both cost-effective and sustainable, ensuring progress despite limited resources.

While country accomplishments demonstrate considerable advancement in tackling NTDs, elimination brings new challenges. Transmission of NTDs across international borders remains a barrier to achieving national elimination goals and accelerating progress towards the 2030 NTD road map targets. Additionally, climate change presents a new and growing challenge for post-elimination efforts of vector-borne NTDs, as rising temperatures and extreme weather events create favourable conditions for the transmission of infections and the re-emergence of drug-resistant diseases.

Strong, efficient and proactive cross-border coordination, including joint planning and implementation, and information- and data-sharing among Member States, is therefore critical to halt the transmission of NTDs in endemic regions across borders. Furthermore, support for Member States in their efforts to verify that NTD elimination is achieved and maintained with effective post-elimination surveillance, is equally important.

During the High-Level side-event held on the margins of the 78th World Health Assembly on 21 May 2025, under the leadership of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Global Onchocerciasis Network for Elimination (GONE), Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria **endorsed a [Call for Action](#) to promote cross-border collaboration** and accelerate progress towards the elimination targets set for NTDs. The endorsed [Call for Action](#) is a strategic tool to strengthen cross-border collaboration, urging countries to take proactive and context-specific measures to accelerate progress towards the shared goal of NTD elimination. A central **recommendation of the [Call for Action](#) is the development and endorsement of a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to facilitate coordinated wider efforts across borders. This includes joint planning, data sharing, and synchronized implementation of interventions and surveillance in border areas.

Several Member States are already engaging in varying degrees of cross-border collaboration on NTDs across the continent; however, these collaborations differ in scope and formality. To strengthen and standardize these efforts, several Member States have expressed their desire to formalize agreements through high-level, joint MoU.

In alignment with the [Call for Action](#), NTD experts will engage in a series of consultations aimed at developing and coordinating the endorsement of a joint Memorandum of Understanding on cross-border collaboration for NTD elimination.

### Expected outcomes of the meeting

- Alignment among NTD experts from Member States on the content and key points to be included in the MoU.
- Agreement on and endorsement of the stipulated activity timelines and approval processes.

### Participants

- National NTD programme managers/experts
- NTD disease focal persons in health ministries
- AUC, Africa CDC, Regional health organizations
- NTD focal persons from WHO
- Implementing partners

## AGENDA

Time (CET)	Topic
12:00–12:10	<b>Welcome remarks and objective of the meeting</b> Dr Maria Rebollo, <b>WHO</b> Dr Chukwuemeka Makata, GONE Vice-Chair, Assistant Director/Desk Officer National Onchocerciasis Elimination Programme, UNICEF Supported NTDs Programme, Federal Ministry of Health, <b>Nigeria</b>
12:10–12:20	<b>The importance of country-driven cross-border collaboration to accelerate elimination goals</b> Professor Julio Rakotonirina, Director of Health and Humanitarian Affairs, <b>AUC</b> (TBC)
12:20–12:35	<b>Call for Action: alignment on the content and key points to be included in the MoU</b> Remarks by Dr Georges Nko'Ayissi, Head of NTD programme, Ministry of Public Health, <b>Cameroon</b> Remarks by Dr Salissou Adamou, National coordinator for onchocerciasis and Lymphatic filariasis, Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs, <b>Niger</b>
12:35–12:45	<b>Experiences from Senegal on the MoU development and endorsement</b> Remarks from Dr Ngayo Sy, National coordinator for onchocerciasis and LF, Ministry of Health and Social Action, <b>Senegal</b>
12:45–13:20	<b>Feedback from Member States on the draft MoU, endorsement procedures and timelines</b> Discussion moderated by Dr Clarer Jones, Head of NTD Programme, Ministry of Health, <b>Tanzania</b>
13:20–13:30	<b>Wrap-up of agreed next steps</b> Dr Chukwuemeka Makata