

**NIGERIA
GOVERNORS'
FORUM**



Primary Health Care Under One Roof (PHCUOR)



NHED



Speech
By
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Director General
Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat
15th November, 2017

Protocol

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this consensus building meeting on the Implementation of the Primary Health Care Under One Roof Policy (PHCUOR).

Ladies and gentlemen, the effective implementation of the PHCUOR policy in all the 36 states of the federation is one of the priorities of the NGF. The current situation where Nigeria is ranked as the second highest in the world for both maternal and under 5 mortality rate in the world is unacceptable. A good proportion of these deaths are from preventable causes that could be averted if our primary health care system is strengthened. The state governors are concerned about this high mortality and are keen on seeing this trend reversed.

The NGF has three key strategic objectives in health. The first is to promote partnerships between state governments and federal level ministries, departments and agencies involved in health. This will facilitate the implementation of health policies at the subnational level. The second objective is to promote the implementation of the Abuja Declaration of apportioning 15% of the state budget to health. Some states have been able to achieve this; we hope to see more states achieve this in the coming years. Thirdly, the NGF hopes to promote the development of pro-poor financial protection schemes across the states to ensure Universal Health Coverage.

In line with our objectives, the NGF secretariat has been working in close partnership with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDC) and other stakeholders towards the implementation of the Primary Health Care Under One Roof policy.

This event is a follow up to the last experience sharing meeting we organized in

June, 2017, which brought together all the Executive Secretaries of the State Primary Health Care Boards and the Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency. During the event, bottlenecks to the implementation of PHCUOR were discussed. One of the resolutions from the meeting was that it was important to bring together the Honourable Commissioners of Health and the Executive Secretaries of State Primary Health Care Boards. We believe that this is an important avenue for discussing the identified bottlenecks in PHCUOR implementation and building consensus on strategies for overcoming them. It will also build upon the discussions that were held at the recently concluded National Council on Health meeting.

The NGF overall strategy is anchored on collaborative action, peer pressure, peer learning and advocacy. In today's event, some states that have achieved progress in certain components of the PHCUOR implementation will share their experiences, lessons and best practices.

We want to specially thank the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) for supporting this event but more importantly for the positive impact it has made in the country's healthcare delivery space. We also wish to thank the Network for Health Equity and Development (NHED) who has partnered with us in organizing this event and for provision of technical support to the Nigeria Governors' Forum.

We sincerely appreciate our relationship with the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), which is the parent agency for primary healthcare in our country.

As the Secretariat to the Nigeria Governors' Forum, we will continue to provide a reliable and solid platform for interventions that will help strengthen our health systems. We hope that the discussions and presentations today will be fruitful, and we will be able to arrive at practical strategies for successfully implementing the Primary Health Care Under One Roof Policy. The NGF is committed to effective PHC systems in all states of the federation and I will like to assure you that resolutions of this meeting will be presented to the NGF for consideration.

Finally, on behalf of the Forum, I thank you for putting this meeting together and wish you all a fruitful deliberation.

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