CONCEPT NOTE

FOR

A SHOWCASE OF THE EVOLUTION OF TRUSTED TRAVEL TO TRUSTED HEALTH WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AFRICAN UNION'S 4D AGENDA IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 2063

28th OCTOBER 2021

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic in Africa continues to occur in waves with some countries already experiencing third and fourth waves. The continued socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic vindicates the decision by the African Union Commission through the Africa CDC to launch the Africa against COVID-19 campaign: saving lives, economies and livelihoods Campaign in August 2020.

This campaign was launched during the joint Ministerial meeting between the AU Member State's Ministers of health and Ministers of transport, together with the African Union Commission on the 18th of August 2020. The launch followed a joint partner's technical consultative meeting conducted on the 13 August, co-organized by Africa CDC in partnership with the World Health Organization Africa and involved the other UN organizations, AUC departments, Regional Economic Committees (RECs), NGOs, and the private sector. The discussion identified calls-to-action in order to recommend collaborative and harmonized approaches for the safe reopening of Member States' borders, economies, and schools.

On 20 August 2020, the teleconference meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government with Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECS) of the African Union endorsed the AUC/Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) campaign on African Against Covid-19 "saving lives and livelihoods". This campaign has three main objectives: (1) minimize the spread of infections within and across the borders by creating a public health safe corridor for safe travel; (2) minimize the impacts of COVID-19 on Economies and Livelihoods; and (3) ensure safe re-opening of schools.

To support the Implementation of objectives of goal 1, The Africa CDC has worked closely in collaboration with other stakeholders such as the World Health Organization (WHO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the private sector to drive the harmonisation, standardization, and coordination of entry and exit requirement among the African Union Member States, backed up by the application of technology and digital tools to improve efficiency and outputs

Futhermore, Africa CDC in collaboration with ECONET and Panabios set up digital platforms that led to the Establishment of African Union Trusted Travel (TT) Innitiative to assist on the creation of the public health safe corridor for travel. As the first phase of the TT innitriative, The Africa CDC launched and rollout a continental electronic platform to assist member states to document their exit and travel restrictions on the dedicated African Union electronic XChange platform.

The African Uninon Trusted Travel Innitiative has progressed considerably, with the support of the PanaBIOS Consortium, ECONET and other technical partners,and has been embraced by at least 21 African countries either directly in partnership with the Africa CDC or through their Regional Economic Community (REC).

The African Union Trusted Travel platform has been augmented by a Trusted Vaccines platform and together the two systems constitute an African Union **Trusted Health** ecosystem designed to lay the foundation for a *Marketplace of Health Innovations* with impacts extending well beyond travel and borders reopening to the need, more broadly, to architect a new Public Health Order and to redesign Africa's post-pandemic reality.

The African Union Commission is inviting stakeholders and partners aligned with this vision to attend a showcase and unveiling of the Trusted Health paradigm, within the African Union's 4D Agenda. Co-chaired by the Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy and Director Africa CDC, this virtual meeting will bring together senior government officials,responsible for Health, Transport, Science, Technology, ICT and other critical domains; private sector champions of innovation and social enterprise; development agencies; multilateral institutions; regional governments; and pan-African NGOs and CSOs.

The objectives of the meeting are as follows:

- Review the progress of Trusted Travel including Trusted Vaccine to date, with an emphasis on emerging challenges,
- Introduce the African Union 4D-animated Trusted Health concept and outline prospects of collaboration, co-innovation, co-creation and co-ownership.
- Review and document best practice in the continent's deployment of innovations to counter the effects of the pandemic.

Expected outputs

a) A strong revival of stakeholders' commitment to the continued success and growth of Trusted Travel and Trusted Vaccines.
b) Recommendations on critical success factors: (i) deployment of digital early warning systems (ii) strengthening of forensic databases and health intelligence platforms and analytics engines; and (iv) exploration of cutting-edge interventions such as genomic surveillance, Big Data localization, and the enhanced use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Algorithms for response optimization across different epidemiological and human wellness domains.
c) Exchange on strategies to ensure the interoperability between the AU Trusted Travel Platform and other interoperable platforms including EAC Pass, IATA Travel Pass and other relevant passes already being used or recognized within Africa and globally
d) Recommendations for enhancing COVID-19 surveillance and data-sharing mechanisms, processes, and technological applications.
e) Continental digital health innovation enablers and how to co-sponsor them to transform health systems.
f) A framework for the introduction of a digital health marketplace concept to broaden the capacity of the African Union to engage with a wider circle of innovators, inventors and social transformers.

g) Agree on more ways forward to accelerate the implementation of the SLL agenda within the 4D framework and in support of Agenda 2063, taking cognisance of the AFTCOR priorities for pandemic recovery, rebuilding and health systems redesign.

Participants

a) Ministers incharge of Health, Transport and ICT of all African Union Member States

b) Senior Government Officials in the Transport, Health, Infrastructure, Science, Technology and ICT sectors in the various African Union Member States

c) African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy

d) Representative of the AUC Chairperson

e) Development Partners

f) Multilateral Institutions

g) Health Innovation Startups

h) Incubators, accelerators and hubs

i) Members of the Press

j) Africa CDC

Date and Time

28th October 2021

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm East African Time or 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (GMT)

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://zoom.us/j/91551954111?pwd=cFlvTDQxUUZTcDFLUnhNNHhmNUFUZz09
Meeting ID: **915 5195 4111**
Passcode: **084316**

FOR INQUIRES PLEASE CONTACT

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Annex 1: Proposed Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Chair
PART ONE: Ministerial Roundtable		
12:45 – 13:00	Registration / Connexion	**Ms. Akhona Tshangela**, *ag. Principal Program Officer, Africa CDC/* **Ms. Mallion Kangum,** *Public Health Fellow, Africa CDC*
13:00 – 13:05	**Welcome Speech** **H.E. Dr. Amani Abdou-Zeid** *Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, AUC*	**H.E. Dr. Amani Abdou-Zeid** *Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, AUC*
13:05 – 13:10	**H.E. Dr. Moustafa Mijiyiwa (TBC)** *Minister of Health, Republic of Togo and Africa CDC Governing Board Chair*	
13:10 – 13:15	**Update on SLL & Trusted Travel** **Dr. John Nkengasong** *Director of Africa CDC*	
13:15 – 13:20	**Journey so far: Trusted Travel (Video screening)**	
Ministerial Remarks		

13:20 – 13:40	**H.E. Dr. Hala Zayed (TBC)** *Minister of Health, Arab Republic of Egypt* **H.E. Amr Talaat (TBC)** *Minister of ICT, Arab Republic of Egypt* **H.E. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu (TBC)** *Minister of Health, Republic of Ghana* **H.E. Dr. Lia Tadesse (TBC)** *Minister of Health, Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*	
PART TWO: Public Seminar (**Chair: Omar Ben Yedder,** Group Publisher and Managing Director of IC Publications)		
13:40 – 13:50	**Trusted Health Partners Panel (Prospects for Innovation)** *Representatives from Ethiopian Airline & ECONET & Panabios and ASLM*	**Moderated discussion moderated by Dr. Edem Adzogenu** *Co-chair of Afrochampions*
Country Spotlight		
13:50 – 14:00	**Dr. Simukai Tirivanhu Zizhou** *Director of Health Informatics* *Ministry of Health, Zimbabwe* **Captain Togbe AGBAGLA** *AI and Big Data Manager* *Ministry of Digital Economy & Digital Transformation, Togo*	**Conversation moderator:** **H.E. Dr. Amani Abdou-Zeid** *Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, AUC*
Evolving Trusted Travel to Trusted Health (**Focus on Genomics & Health Commodities**)		
14:00 – 14:10	**Dr. John Nkengasong,** *Director of Africa CDC* **Dr. Edem Adzogenu** *Co-chair of Afrochampions*	**Presentations**
Other Partner Perspectives		

14:10 – 14:20	**Mr. Abderahman Berte, Secretary General** *African Airlines Association (AFRAA)* **Mrs. Adefunke Adeyemi, Regional Director** *International Air Transport Association (IATA)*	**H.E. Dr. Amani Abdou-Zeid** *Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, AUC*
International Partnerships & Multilaterals Panel		
14:20 – 14:30	**Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa** *Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa, UNDP* **Dr. Jan Paehler** *European Commission - International Partnerships*	**Moderator**: **Omar Ben Yedder** *Group Publisher and Managing Director of IC Publications*
14:30 – 14:55	Discussions	
14:55 – 15:00	Wrap-Up: **Dr. John Nkengasong,** *Director of Africa CDC*	