

AFRICA CDC MINISTERIAL EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

3rd Annual High-level Ministerial Forum on the margins of the 38th Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State Summit, February 2025.

Concept Note

Date: 13th February, 2025

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Background

Transformative leadership is key to overcoming the prevailing and emergent health challenges faced in Africa including brain drain with respect to human resources for health and the current surge in the burden of infectious and non-communicable diseases. The on-going Mpox outbreak which is a public health emergency of continental security (PHECS) and other concurrent outbreaks have revealed significant gaps in health leadership that exist at all levels.

These gaps have been especially apparent in broad health systems strengthening particularly in the African context. To address these gaps, there is need to support Health Ministers – the primary custodians of health in Africa to exercise purposeful leadership that will drive sustainable and traceable achievements in building an adaptive health system. Against this backdrop, the Africa CDC birthed the Ministerial Executive Leadership Programme (MELP).

The Ministerial Executive Leadership Program (MELP) is a groundbreaking flagship initiative of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) designed to strengthen the capacities of Health Ministers through the key pillars of **Leadership, Collaboration, Innovation, and Transformation** towards achieving a healthy Africa. The MELP closely aligns with the **Africa CDC New Public Health Order** and the **Africa Union (AU) Agenda 2063: *The Africa We Want***.

Through these key pillars, the MELP will position African Health Ministers as champions of the New Public Health Order and AU Agenda 2063 for a safer and healthier Africa. To achieve Africa CDC's vision for the MELP, an Annual High-Level Ministerial Forum was established as a crucial platform to deliver on the commitment of the MELP. The MELP has previously hosted two annual forums in February 2023 and 2024 respectively which has immensely contributed to its overall recorded success till date. Drawing on the foregoing convenings, the Africa CDC MELP will host the **3rd Annual Ministerial Forum on the margins of the 38th Ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government**. The forum will convene Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Health, Africa CDC staff and

other high-level stakeholders/global health experts and will focus on harnessing political commitment and transformative leadership strategies to build an adaptive health system in Africa. The forum will engage in thematic areas such as:

- Reimagining Primary Health Care in Africa with a focus on community-led systems
- Accelerating Universal Health Coverage in Africa through policy and strategy reforms
- Unlocking the power of cross-sectoral collaboration for emergency response in Africa
- Exploring the climate and health nexus through the emergency response lens

Objectives

The following are the objectives of the forum:

1. Foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among health ministers
2. Discuss pressing continental and global health issues to proffer African grown and innovative solutions accordingly
3. Explore transformative and innovative approaches to health systems strengthening, delivery and financing
4. Garner commitment from participating ministers to enrol in the next cohort of the MELP
5. Provide a platform for networking among ministers and key global health stakeholders

Expected outcomes

1. Strategies and solutions to address pressing health issues and building adaptive health systems with stellar examples
2. Identification of areas for joint development in health to ensure that the MELP addresses unmet needs
3. Recommendations for aligning national health priorities with continental and global commitments including Universal Health Coverage.
4. Mechanisms for regular engagements and information exchange among ministers
5. Preliminary list of ministers to be enrolled into the 2nd cohort of the MELP and their confirmation of participation in all activities of the programme in 2025.

Delivery approach

The format of the forum will include:

- Keynote and solidarity remarks

- Fireside chats and interviews with African health ministers and global health experts
- Presentations
- Interactive panel discussions
- Networking, among other activities.