



## **Seventy-Fifth Ordinary Session Of the Council of Ministers**

Abuja, 13-14 December 2015

### **REGULATIONS C/REG. 11/12/15 ESTABLISHING AND STATING OPERATING PROCEDURES OF THE ECOWAS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SURVEILLANCE AND DISEASE CONTROL (ECOWAS – RCSDC)**

#### **THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**MINDFUL OF** Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty as amended, establishing the Council of Ministers and stating its composition and functions;

**MINDFUL OF** Article 3.2 a) of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty on harmonization and coordination of national policies, as well as promotion of programs, projects and activities in the Health sector in particular;

**MINDFUL OF** Article 61 d) of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty on promoting and strengthening cooperation in the field of health;

**MINDFUL OF** The General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of ECOWAS signed April 22, 1978;

**MINDFUL OF** Protocol A/P2/7/87 establishing a West African Health Organisation (WAHO);

**MINDFUL OF** Regulations C/REG.15/11/09 establishing the criteria to host ECOWAS Institutions and Agencies;

**Whereas** ECOWAS' priority is to protect and improve human health through prevention of human diseases and address potential health threats in order to ensure a high level of health protection for citizens of the Community;

**Whereas** ECOWAS, under a wider scope of action, is to provide coordinated and coherent response to public health threats namely epidemics, as well as various actions ranging from preparedness and control to prevention of human diseases;

**Convinced that** Member States should provide and share relevant information through the designated appropriate structures/authorities serving as a network of epidemiological surveillance and diseases control in the Community;

**Recalling that** at its Forty Seventh Ordinary session held on May 19, 2015 in Accra, the Authority of Heads of State and Government endorsed the establishment of the Regional Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control with Headquarters in Nigeria;

**Recalling** the recommendation of the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Assembly of Health Ministers (AHM) held July 24, 2009 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire on the establishment of a regional body for disease surveillance and response;

**Recalling also** the recommendation of the Sixteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Assembly of Health Ministers of ECOWAS held March 13, 2015 in Niamey, Niger on the establishment of a Regional Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control in the ECOWAS region;

**Aware of** the many challenges confronting the West African Region, in the context of disease control and prevention, due to Member States' weak health systems which is particularly evidenced by insufficient infrastructure and qualified human resources, fragile disease surveillance systems and laboratory services with significantly limited capacity for disease detection;

**Considering that** ECOWAS – RCSDC must permanently ensure scientific excellence through its own expertise and that of Member States and should foster, develop and steer applied scientific studies to enhance the visibility and credibility of scientific expertise in ECOWAS; that the Regional Centre must also promote ECOWAS' preparedness planning, through reinforced links with clinical and public health sectors, with a view to strengthening capacity for rapid diagnosis of public health laboratories, as well as encouraging and coordinating training programs;

**Considering that** Member Countries are bound by the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) and are also to engage in implementation of the principle of One Health agenda in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);

**Recognising** the call of the African Union to establish regional centres for disease control by regional economic communities as coordinating units of the proposed Africa Union Centre for Disease Control;

**Wishing to** create a Regional Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control in the ECOWAS region with integration in mind, and with a view to establishing a single structure dedicated to strengthening disease surveillance capacities of Member States and their resilience to epidemic shocks in the West African region;

**Willing to** provide the ECOWAS region with a Regional structure to guarantee and ensure Member States of a coordinated and effective response in the key area of disease control and prevention and particularly with regards to epidemic-prone diseases.

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## ENACTS:

### CHAPTER I: DEFINITION, ESTABLISHMENT AND STATUTE

#### **Article 1: Definitions**

For the purposes of this set of Regulations:

- a) ***“Public Health Event ”***, a condition, agent or incident which directly or indirectly, may cause health problems;
- b) ***“Competent Public Health Authority”***: shall mean any structure, institute, agency or any other scientific body with function recognized by the authorities of ECOWAS Member States as providing independent scientific and technical advice, or functioning with capacity for action in the field of early detection and prevention and control of public health events;
- c) ***“National Coordinating Institutions”***: *national facility serving as institutional link with ECOWAS – RCSDC, responsible for facilitation and coordination of surveillance and response interventions implementation at country level;*
- d) ***“Prevention and Control of Public Health Events”***: all measures taken by competent health authorities in ECOWAS Member States to prevent, respond to and halt the spread of diseases;
- e) ***“Dedicated Surveillance Network”***: the Community network comprising the Regional Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control in the ECOWAS Region and its national coordinating institutions in the Member States for epidemiological surveillance of the common space; if necessary, this network will include specialized structures in epidemiological surveillance for specific issues within the ECOWAS region;
- f) ***“Epidemiological Surveillance”***: a systematic collection, collation,- analyzation, interpretation and dissemination of data for public health action;
- g) ***Early warning alert and response network (EWARN)”***: the planned network for the prevention and control of diseases, formed by establishing constant communication between surveillance networks and competent public health authorities in each Member State, through the appropriate means, for the prevention and control of diseases, with the aim of reducing response time;

#### **Article 2: Establishment and Designation**

These Regulations hereby establish a regional structure, responsible for prevention and control of disease across the ECOWAS region, known as the “Regional Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control in the ECOWAS region (ECOWAS – RCSDC).

### **Article 3 : Statute of ECOWAS – RCSDC**

1. ECOWAS – RCSDC shall be a Specialized Agency of ECOWAS. It has a legal personality and financial autonomy. In all Member States, it enjoys through its national coordinating institution the widest powers granted by national law to legal persons. It may in particular acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property and institute legal proceedings.
2. The ECOWAS Convention on Privileges and Immunities shall be applicable to ECOWAS – RCSDC and its staff, without prejudice to the signing of more favourable Headquarters Agreement with the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
3. ECOWAS – RCSDC shall operate under the supervision of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) within the ambit of the conditions prescribed by this set of regulations.
4. ECOWAS – RCSDC staff shall be subject to the provisions of the ECOWAS Staff Regulations.

### **Article 4: Headquarters and National Coordinating Institutions of ECOWAS – RCSDC**

1. ECOWAS – RCSDC's Headquarters is set at ABUJA, in **THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**.
2. National coordinating institutions shall cooperate and collaborate with ECOWAS – RCSDC.

## **CHAPITRE II: MANDATE AND OBLIGATIONS**

### **Article 5 : Mandate and Obligations of ECOWAS – RCSDC**

1. ECOWAS – RCSDC's general mandate is to support ECOWAS Member States to build capacities to effectively conduct disease surveillance, prepare, respond and communicate risks for public health events.
2. The ECOWAS- RCSDC shall also address complex health challenges in a coordinated manner, to empower the Member States achieve the ECOWAS set objective of keeping the people of West Africa healthy.
3. ECOWAS – RCSDC shall act only in cooperation with the relevant competent authority and upon request from Member States to carry out its mission, working under the close supervision of WAHO.

As part of its mission, ECOWAS – RCSDC shall:

- a) Establish a list of existing capacities in the region through periodical assessment and mapping of health risk;

- b) Provide technical support to Member States to collect, collate, evaluate and disseminate relevant disease surveillance data including scientific and technical data on any public health event occurring in and around the region;
- c) Offer scientific advice and provide scientific and technical support, including training and promoting research and development;
- d) Provide prompt epidemiological information to WAHO and Member States;
- e) Support preparedness and response activities in the various Member States and the various networks operating in the fields within the purview of its mandate;
- f) Ensure the exchange of information including risk communication, expertise and best practices within the Community and facilitate the development and implementation of joint actions;
- g) Establish a strategy for mobilisation of available human and material resources and logistics relevant to disease control and prevention;
- h) Establish emergency stockpile of drugs and materials in addition to National stockpiles to support any emergency response activities in the region;
- i) Coordinate response activities with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other global health partners and disease surveillance actors in each Member State and at trans-border areas in accordance with International Health Regulations (IHR);
- j) Disseminate information on public health event trends and sensitize the public in the region through effective health education;
- k) Provide progress report to Member States and WAHO on the response and control activities being carried out by the RCSDC;
- l) Mobilise resources with the support of WAHO for proper implementation of programmes and projects;
- m) Support all national or regional initiatives under global health security agenda.

**4. In addition, the Centre shall be saddled with a specific mission in the following fields:**

**a. Operation of Dedicated Regional Surveillance Network**

- i) ECOWAS – RCSDC will support regional surveillance network activities;
- ii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will ensure the integrated operation of dedicated regional surveillance network;

- iii) The Centre will provide quality assurance by monitoring and evaluating surveillance activities of such dedicated surveillance networks to ensure optimal conduct of activities;
- iv) The Centre will update data base (s) for such epidemiological surveillance;
- v) The ECOWAS - RCSDC will communicate epidemiological data analysis results to WAHO and Member States;
- vi) ECOWAS – RCDC shall ensure material and benefit sharing among member states and collaborating partners is made in accordance to the WHO established norms and regulations.

#### **b. Cooperation**

- i) By encouraging cooperation between experts, reference laboratories and human and animal health institutions. ECOWAS – RCSDC will promote within ECOWAS the development of sufficient capacity for diagnosis, detection, identification and characterization of infectious agents likely to pose a threat to public health. ECOWAS – RCSDC will uphold and extend such cooperation, and support the implementation of quality assurance systems;
- ii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will cooperate with competent bodies recognized by the Member States, particularly regarding the preparatory work for scientific advice, scientific and technical support assignments, data collection and identification of emerging public health threats.

#### **c. Scientific Consultations and Studies**

- i) ECOWAS – RCSDC will provide independent platforms, including through the proposed Technical Advisory Council, for scientific consultations on data and information;
- ii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will ensure scientific excellence based on best practices and expertise available within the region, in Africa and internationally. Where adequate scientific expertise is not available within the region, RCSDC may source for such expertise externally and could set up independent *ad hoc* scientific panels;
- iii) ECOWAS – RCSDC may promote and initiate scientific studies necessary for the accomplishment of its mission, while avoiding duplication of research programs by Member States or WAHO;
- iv) ECOWAS – RCSDC will, from time to time, consult with WAHO on programming and priority setting for research and public health studies;
- v) The centre will issue a scientific statement and advice, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on any matter within its mandate at the request of either WAHO, a Member State, or any other Community Institution or not. and in all

cases where Community legislation provides for consultation of ECOWAS – RCSDC ; Requests shall be accompanied by background information explaining the scientific issue to be addressed and the Community interest:

- Where different requests are made on the same issues or where an application does not comply with paragraph v above, or is unclear, ECOWAS – RCSDC may request further clarification from the ECOWAS institution or the Member State (s) who made the request;
- When ECOWAS – RCSDC has already issued a scientific advice on a requested subject and there are no scientific elements justifying a review of the matter, information in support of this conclusion shall be communicated to the institution or Member State (s) who made the request;
- ECOWAS – RCSDC Rules of Procedure shall specify formats, explanatory background and other requirements for publication of scientific information.

#### **d. Emergency Operating Centre**

- i) Each Member State shall establish Emergency Operating Centre (EOC);
- ii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will support Member States to establish National Emergency Operating Centres (EOCs) for effective response to any health emergency;
- iii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will assist in strengthening National Emergency Preparedness and Response Committees, with standing Rapid Response Teams;
- iv) ECOWAS – RCSDC will coordinate and assist in operationalizing the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) in Member States;
- v) ECOWAS – RCSDC will also take steps to ensure the functionality of the early warning alert and response system. (EWARN);
- vi) ECOWAS – RCSDC will maintain efficient and effective links with other Community alert systems including animal health, food and animal feed and civil protection;
- vii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will analyse health information and data received through the early warning alert and response network;
- viii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will encourage the establishment of Trigger - Response mechanisms in Member States;
- ix) ECOWAS – RCSDC will identify key responsible players and work force for emergency response within the region;

- x) ECOWAS – RCSDC will identify key elements for information gathering and sharing on emergency operation activities;
- xi) ECOWAS – RCSDC will assist Member States with expertise on risk assessment;
- xii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will facilitate establishment of joint human and animal health surveillance network in the spirit of "one health";
- xiii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will facilitate information sharing between a Member States' National Emergency Operating Centres (EOCs), WHO and other partners, where necessary;
- xiv) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall contribute to Rapid Response Teams for deployment to Member State in times of need.

**e. Regional Capacity Building**

- i) ECOWAS – RCSDC will provide scientific and technical support to Member States, WAHO and other Community Agencies in the development, review and periodic updating of preparedness and strategic plans within the purview of its mandate;
- ii) ECOWAS – RCSDC may, at the instance of WAHO, Member States, non-Member States and international organizations (particularly WHO), provide scientific or technical support in any field within its mandate;
- iii) Response to requests for scientific or technical support sent to ECOWAS – RCSDC shall be provided within a timeline, which is set by the rules of procedure. When ECOWAS – RCSDC's financial capacity is inappropriate to treat a request for support from WAHO, a Member State, a non-Member State or an International Organization, the Centre shall assess the request and explore opportunities to respond to them directly or through other ECOWAS mechanisms;
- iv) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall support and coordinate capacity building through training programs such as FELTPs, and others to assist Member States and WAHO to build sufficient numbers of trained specialists, particularly in the areas of epidemiological surveillance and field investigations, to define and implement specific health measures to control disease outbreaks;
- v) ECOWAS – RCSDC will assist in building capacities of other African region on request by a country or organisation on mutually agreed items.

**f. Identification of Emerging Threats to Public Health**



- i) ECOWAS – RCSDC will support Member States to strengthen the existing surveillance systems to enable them to early identify any public health emergency;
- ii) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall pass on to WAHO a quarterly evaluation of recurring and emerging threats to health in the Community;
- iii) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall promptly inform WAHO and ECOWAS Member States of findings which require their immediate attention.

#### **g. Data and Information Management**

- i) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall support Member States to coordinate data collection, validation, analysis and dissemination at community and health facility level, including data on immunization:
  - ECOWAS – RCSDC will develop, with relevant agencies of Member States and WAHO, appropriate procedures to facilitate consultation, data transmission and access to this data;
  - ECOWAS – RCSDC will carry out technical and scientific evaluation of prevention and control measures at community level in conjunction with Member States;
  - ECOWAS – RCSDC will cooperate closely with competent authorities of Member States on Community data collection;
  - Should a Member State make a request, ECOWAS – RCSDC shall make all relevant information collected available to the applicant in compliance with paragraph g.1 of this set of regulations. However, when such a request is from an organization outside the Community, the Centre shall apply to WAHO for prior authorization before passing on the information, and ensure appropriate confidentiality.
- ii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will establish a data repository/warehouse;
- iii) ECOWAS – RCSDC will establish a feedback publication to be called ECO – Surveillance to be published on a weekly basis in the three ECOWAS official languages.

#### **h. Communicating Public Health Emergencies**

- i) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall support and strengthen Member States' risk communication systems to effectively disseminate information on all public health events/emergencies within the region in a timely manner;
- ii) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall provide progress report to Member States on the response and control activities implemented with their consent;

- iii) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall coordinate with relevant partners and provide periodic updates on disease surveillance, prevention and control activities in the region;
- iv) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall conduct ongoing review of informal media reports that could provide early warning of public health threats across the continent;
- v) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall develop common information/education/communication and awareness-raising messages for adaptation in Member States during emergencies;
- vi) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall act in close collaboration with WAHO, ECOWAS Member States and WHO to promote the necessary coherence of communication process on health related risks;
- vii) ECOWAS – RCSDC shall cooperate as appropriate with the competent authorities of Member States and other interested parties with regard to public awareness campaigns.

#### **Article 6: Obligations of Member States**

Member States shall:

1. Provide ECOWAS – RCSDC through its national coordinating institution with timely scientific and technical data including research at their disposal and that are relevant to its mandate;
2. Provide ECOWAS – RCSDC with relevant public health information on early warning alert and response activities in member states upon request;
3. Identify recognized competent bodies and public health experts likely to contribute to Community responses to health threats.

### **CHAPTER 3**

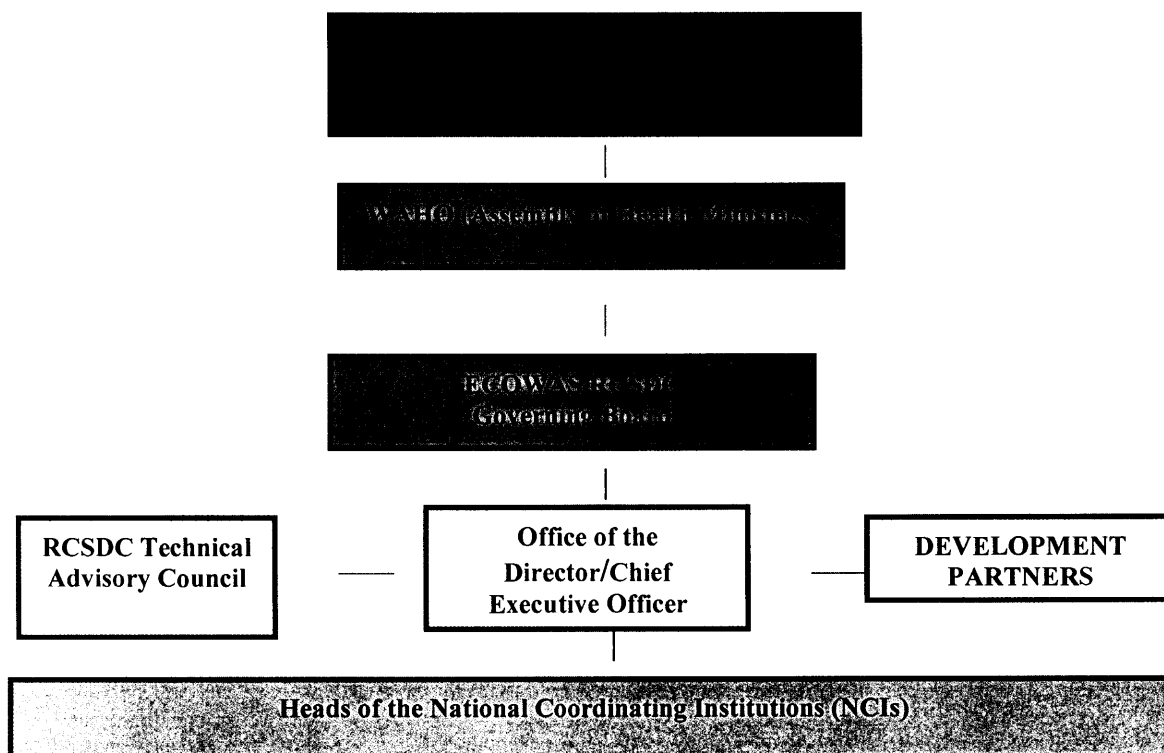
#### **ORGANIZATION**

#### **Article 7: Governance Structures of the ECOWAS - RCSDC**

The governance structure of the ECOWAS – RCSDC shall be as follows :

1. Governing Board
2. Office of the Director/Chief Executive Officer
3. Technical Advisory Council

The institutional framework of ECOWAS – RCSDC shall be as indicated in the following chart :



#### **Article 8 : Governing Board**

1. The Governing Board shall comprise the Director General of WAHO, the Director of the Department of Disease and Epidemics Control of WAHO, the Chief Executive Officer/Director of ECOWAS – RCSDC , a representative of ECOWAS Commission , and six designated members representing National Coordinating Institutions of Member States, a representative of regional animal health Centre and a representative of the World Health Organization (WHO).
2. The Governing Board shall be chaired by the Director General of WAHO and shall meet twice a year in ordinary sessions. Extraordinary sessions could be organised if requested by two-thirds majority of members or at the instance of the Executive Director.
3. The Governing Board chaired by the WAHO Director General shall provide the oversight of the activities of RCSDC in strict compliance with ECOWAS Rules and Procedures.
4. A set of rules and procedures shall be adopted by the Governing Board on the basis of a proposal from the Director of ECOWAS – RCSDC. The said Regulation shall be made public.

#### **Article 9 : ECOWAS – RCSDC Director/Chief Executive Officer**

ECOWAS – RCSDC shall be headed by an Executive Director.

1. He shall be responsible for:
  - a) the day to day running of the ECOWAS – RCSDC;
  - b) preparation of the Strategic plan, implementation plan and monitoring and evaluation plan;
  - c) implementation of the approved annual work programs and other decisions of the Governing Board;
  - d) ensuring appropriate scientific, technical and administrative support for the Technical Advisory Council;
  - e) ensuring that ECOWAS – RCSDC carry out its tasks in a manner to meet the needs of its users;
  - f) preparing the statement of income and expenditure and the budget execution of ECOWAS – RCSDC ;
  - g) Management of Staff Matters;
2. Every year the Executive Director shall submit to WAHO:
  - a) Annual report of the ECOWAS – RCSDC for the previous year not later than three months from the end of the year;
  - b) Work programs;
  - c) Budget estimates for the following year.

#### **Article 10: Appointment of Director/Chief Executive Officer**

1. ECOWAS – RCSDC will be managed by the Director/**Chief Executive Officer**, who shall be appointed by the President of ECOWAS Commission following a competitive call for applications in compliance with ECOWAS Rules and Procedures by WAHO.
2. Appointment of the Director/**Chief Executive Officer** shall be for a 4-year term, renewable once subject to satisfactory performance.

#### **Article 11 : Technical Advisory Council**

1. The Technical Advisory Council is composed of regional and international experts including the Heads of the designated National Coordinating Institutions and development partners.
2. The Technical Advisory Council shall support the Executive Director in ensuring the scientific excellence of ECOWAS – RCSDC's activities and advice.

3. The Technical Advisory Council constitutes a mechanism for an exchange of information on health threats and the pooling of knowledge. It shall ensure that ECOWAS – RCSDC and competent authorities of Member States cooperate closely, specifically:
  - a) to ensure consistency between ECOWAS – RCSDC's scientific studies and those of Member States;
  - b) where ECOWAS – RCSDC and a national body cooperate;
  - c) to promote and supervise community networks operating in areas under ECOWAS - RCSDC's mission;
  - d) when ECOWAS – RCSDC or a Member State identifies an emerging threat to public health;
  - e) in connection with the establishment of scientific panels by ECOWAS – RCSDC;
  - f) to identify scientific and public health priorities to be taken into account in the work program;
4. The Technical advisory council shall be chaired by the Director/**Chief Executive Officer** or, in his absence, by a deputy appointed by him. It shall meet regularly, once a year. The Council is to be convened by the Director/**Chief Executive Officer** or at the request of at least a third of its members. Its operational procedures shall be specified in the ECOWAS – RCSDC rules of procedure and be made public.
5. WAHO shall offer the needed technical and logistic support to the Technical Advisory Council.
6. The Director/**Chief Executive Officer** may invite experts or representatives of professional organizations, scientific bodies and non-governmental organizations with recognized experience in related disciplines to ECOWAS – RCSDC to participate in specific tasks and take part in the Technical Advisory Council meetings.

## CHAPTER 4

### ETHIC - TRANSPARENCY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

#### **Article 12 : Declaration of Interest**

1. Members of the Technical Advisory Council, scientific panels and the Executive Director shall act in all circumstances in the public interest of the Community.

2. The Executive Director, the members of the Technical Advisory Council as well as external experts participating in scientific panels shall declare at each meeting any interests which may conflict with the interests of ECOWAS – RCSDC. If there are, they must refrain from taking part in discussions and related decisions.
3. In the absence of any statements or should untruthful statements be made, the above mentioned people shall incur penalties provided by the Rules of procedure of the Centre.
4. ECOWAS – RCSDC shall consult with National ethic bodies if necessary. In case of events involving different countries or if a Country does not have an existing ethical committee, ECOWAS – RCSDC will set up an ad hoc ethic committee.

### **Article 13 : Confidentiality**

1. ECOWAS – RCSDC, the staff and any member who contributed to its activities shall not divulge to third parties confidential information that they receive, for which confidential treatment has been requested and justified, except for information that, if circumstances so require, must be made public to protect public health without prejudice to a consultation with WAHO and concerned Member State.
  - 1.1 Should confidential information be transmitted to the ECOWAS – RCSDC by a Member State, it may not be disclosed without the prior consent of that Member State;
  - 1.2 Notwithstanding provisions in paragraph 1.1 when confidential information transmitted to the Centre poses a threat to the health security of neighbouring Member States, ECOWAS – RCSDC is duty bound to divulge the said information.
2. Members of the Board, the Executive Director and external experts participating in scientific panels, members of the Technical Advisory Council and staff members of ECOWAS – RCSDC, even after termination of their appointments, are subject to confidentiality.
3. The conclusions of ECOWAS – RCSDC's scientific opinions relating to foreseeable health effects may in no case be kept confidential.
4. ECOWAS – RCSDC shall set in its rules of procedure practical arrangements for implementing the confidentiality rules referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

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## **CHAPTER 5: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION**

### **Article 14 : Financial Regulations**

ECOWAS – RCSDC shall be governed by Regulations C/REG.05/05/09 adopting the Financial Regulations of ECOWAS Institutions and its subsequent amendments.

### **Article 15 : Institutional Cooperation**

1. ECOWAS – RCSDC shall welcome the contribution of any other organization with the same mandate.
2. ECOWAS – RCSDC shall relate with similar institutions through defined Memorandum of Understanding specifying in particular the nature, context, extent and terms of collaboration.
3. WAHO shall collaborate with Nigeria CDC to put in place the necessary structures for the establishment of ECOWAS – RCSDC based on agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

## **CHAPTER 6: INTERIM AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 16: Appointment of an Acting Director**

1. Upon signature of these Regulations, the President of the Commission, on the basis of a proposal from WAHO, shall appoint the Acting Director of the ECOWAS – RCSDC for a period not exceeding twelve (12) months.
2. The Acting Director shall be responsible for establishing the ECOWAS – RCSDC and the actual start-up of its activities.

### **Article 17 : Monitoring and Evaluation**


1. Two (02) years following the actual start-up of ECOWAS – RCSDC's activities, the Governing Board shall commission an independent and external evaluation study of activities. This evaluation will cover:
  - a) the possible need to extend ECOWAS – RCSDC's mandate to other areas of Community activities in public health, particularly to health surveillance;
  - b) the relevance of the model and opportunities for enhanced performance
2. This assessment shall take into account ECOWAS – RCSDC's tasks, its working practices and its impact on prevention and control of human diseases, and shall include synergistic effects analysis and the financial implications of

such an extension. The assessment shall reckon with the views of stakeholders, at both Country and Regional level.

**Article 18: Entry into Force and Publication**

1. These Regulations shall enter into force upon signature by the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers.
2. These Regulations shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the President of the Commission within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairperson of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. It shall also be published in the National Gazette of each Member State, thirty (30) days after notification by the Commission.

**DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015**



**MR. KHADIM DIOP**

CHAIRPERSON  
FOR COUNCIL

The signature is written over a circular official stamp of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. The stamp contains the text 'ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' and 'ABUJA' around the perimeter, with a star in the center. A horizontal dotted line is positioned below the signature.