



PROMOTION DES MEDECINES TRADITIONNELLES PRO.ME.TRA INTERNATIONAL

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AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE DAY 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PROMETRA International

Dr. Erick GBODOSSOU

Theme: Local Manufacturing of Traditional Medicine Products in the African Region

Traditional Medicines have been experiencing renewed interest for three decades, a new fervor. They are rehabilitated as inspiring discoveries, innovations, progress and sustainable development. This fervor is due to the observation of the limits of the Cartesian system, the deviation of scientific and technical evolution and malaise of modern human sciences. Conventional medicine itself engages in dubious and questionable practices, such as over-vaccination, horizontal childbirth, relentlessness in certain so-called pediatric conditions and consequences of misuse of synthetic and chemical drugs.

Traditional medicine must benefit from a lucid exploration to reveal its secrets, to open the exploit on the unknown and the infinite in order to lead to most hidden springs of action that would bring tomorrow sciences to serve the advent of a more human and enlightened world.

International Organizations such as AIPO (African Intellectual Property Organization), ARIPO (African Regional Intellectual Property Organization), WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference), the AU (African Union) ... seek ways and means to protect and value Traditional Medicine.

We must recognize that Conventional Medicines have discomfort all over the world.

At North :

In the current context where predominates individualism, conventional medicine has become mechanical and dehumanizing for

humans. It recognizes that 60% of illnesses are psychic or psychosomatic ; areas in which it is limited. Moreover, it is insufficiently armed before all viral diseases and many other degenerative and called incurable diseases.

In light of this, we realize that conventional medicine covers barely 20% of human health problems.

Indeed, this medicine based on a Cartesian system, limited and desert, which does not take into account the subtle dimensions, cultural, cultural, as well as the belief of Men. As we know, health of every man is integrated in his civilization values of his belief and his environment.

Nowadays, one can enter through a door and exit by another with a prescription in hand without meeting a doctor.

This is worrying.

At South :

In Southern countries, and particularly in Africa, discomfort can be summed up in a single term : insufficiencies.

- Insufficient medical staff,
- Inadequate logistical, health facilities and equipment,
- Insufficient financial resources,
- Insufficient hospitals and health centers, with all the difficulties of access when they exist ...

In addition, conventional medicine requires a diagnosis before any treatment. The diagnosis is clinical and paraclinical.

How many Africans can afford the paraclinical exams needed to diagnose ?

The few doctors that we have receive in their structures a patient whom they do not know, they examine him for 5 minutes and send him back with a prescription.

This process is not scientific !

And yet, in many of our African countries, the only accepted medicine is Conventional Medicine.

This is worrying.

If Conventional Medicine has discomfort everywhere, Conventional Drugs are also challenged everywhere.

In addition, drugs imported from North to Africa are mostly counterfeit, unnecessary or toxic placebos. These counterfeit products account for more than 65% of imported medicines in our countries.

This is worrying.

Indeed, in our African countries, we see increasingly seizures record of counterfeit medicines. Every year, new seizures confirm the prevalence of this vast continental traffic. Some examples:

- **In Senegal: In May 2017**, Senegalese customs seized dozens of cartons of fake painkillers, fake antibiotics and fake pest control products. The total value would exceed 30 million CFA francs (around 45,000 euros).
- **In Benin: In June 2018**, a vast network of drug traffickers was apprehended in the departments of Mono and Alibori. And nearly three tons of fake medicines were seized in the Alibori and 830 Kg in the Mono.
- **In Nigeria : In June 2018** : Record capture of customs in Nigeria. They got their hands on 35 containers of Tramadol, a pain medication used as a drug. An inexpensive, easy-to-find product that is wreaking havoc in several countries of the continent. Nigeria has therefore increased its vigilance against trafficking.

And the list is still long...

In view of this, PROMETRA I have the honor to serve salutes the relevance of the theme of the African Traditional Medicine Day 2018 proposed by WHO / AFRO namely : ***Local Manufacturing of Traditional Medicine Products in the African Region.***

If yesterday the world ran behind yellow gold ... today, it is black gold that makes the law. It remains obvious that **Green Gold** will make the world of tomorrow run.

90% of this **Green Gold** is in the 1/3 world countries and singularly in Africa.

It is therefore imperative that African countries :

- rehabilitate Traditional Medicine,
- encourage collaborative research on the effectiveness of medicinal plants,
- be sure of the availability of these plants, and especially of their safety.
- protect discoveries resulting from this research by the relevant structures (AIPO, ARIPO, WIPO etc.),
- valorize the results of this research.

Valorization must focus on two essential aspects :

1. production of herbal medicines will have to meet a fundamental objective : " Local solutions to our local health problems "
2. production of herbal medicines should help boost sustainable development of our countries and play the role of Green Gold. To do this, these drugs must provide solutions to the shortcomings of conventional medicines. This is not to reinvent the wheel, but to find real solutions to viral, degenerative, cancerous, diabetic, chronic and rebellious diseases.

The challenge is huge, but the goal is both noble and exciting.

I know I can count on each and every one of you, My Beloved Brothers and Sisters, to mobilize tens of thousands of traditional healers and other grassroots community leaders whom you have the honor to serve to set up a process for continuous discoveries in order to contribute to health for our populations and the endogenous sustainable development of our countries, our sub-region and our region.

This 16th African Traditional Medicine Day is a nod from WHO to all actors of Traditional Medicine for a collective awakening, necessary to a better health, base of any development.

May the light illuminate your paths, let the spirits of our ancestors guide you and let the African continent, the land of the first stammerings, the land of all civilizations, contribute to various health challenges of our planet.

My admiration for each and every one of you, my beloved brothers and sisters.

Dr. Erick GBODOSSOU
President
PROMETRA International