



Traditional Medicine Policy

FOR NIGERIA | 2007

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FOREWORD

As we are all aware, traditional medical care preceded the use of conventional medical knowledge and practice in all parts of the world, Nigeria inclusive. For decades, the Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Health, has intervened intermittently in the area of traditional medicine but such inconsistent attempts did not yield significant progress on the road towards the integration of traditional medicine into the formal national health system. Therefore, in order to expedite the process towards the integration, the Federal Ministry of Health decided to follow the guidance and direction provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) by establishing this Nigerian Traditional Medicine Policy.

The policy addresses relevant issues such as legislation and regulation; strategy; system management; management information system; human resources development; technology; financing; conservation of the environment; biodiversity; knowledge; skills and culture; protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs) and indigenous knowledge; and fostering partnerships between traditional conventional medicine practitioners.

The policy would serve and promote the interests of the various stakeholders in the realm of traditional medicine including traditional medicine practitioners (TMPs), researchers, regulatory agencies, policy makers, culture practitioners, law enforcement agents, business entrepreneurs etc.

It is envisaged that through the policy, a conducive national environment for Nigerians to derive optimal benefits from traditional medicine; and generally facilitate the integration of traditional medicine into the national health system would be provided.

I am therefore delighted to commend this National traditional Medicine Policy to all stakeholders and the general public, especially the traditional medicine practitioners, for whom the establishment of this policy would no doubt represent a monumental landmark.

Professor Eyitayo Lambo
Honourable Minister of Health

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
ARIPO	African Regional Industrial Property Organization
CBD	Convention on Biological diversity
CHP	Conventional Health Practitioner
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GCP	Good Clinical Practice
GDP	Good Distribution Practice
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
GPP	Good Pharmacy Practice
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
LGA	Local Government Area
NAFDAC	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
NCH	National Council on Health
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHMIS	National Health Management Information Systems
NTMIS	National Traditional Medicine Information System
NTMT	National Traditional Medicine Technology
OAPI	Organisation Africaine sur La Proprietaire Intellectuelle
OAU	Organization of African Unity
STMB	State Traditional Medicine Board
THP	Traditional Health Practitioner
TM	Traditional Medicine
TMB	Traditional Medicine Board
TMCN	Traditional Medicine Council of Nigeria
TMPs	Traditional Medicine Practitioners
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
WHO	World Health Organization
WHO/AFRO	WHO Regional Office for Africa

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NIGERIAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE POLICY

PART ONE: BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 The Federal Government of Nigeria is taking a definite bold step to institutionalize Traditional Medicine (TM) by enunciating this Policy in order to expand further the health care coverage in the country. Traditional medicine has, for many centuries, been part of our health culture, and if the desirable aspects of this culture and incorporated into the existing health care systems, all the stakeholders stand to benefit.

1.1.2 The Nigerian Traditional Medicine Policy is in conformity with the implementation of the Regional strategy for the African Region on *Promoting the role of traditional medicine in health systems (AFR/RC50/9)* and current definition of African Traditional Medicine as given by the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO) which is as follows:

1.1.3 Traditional Medicine is "the total combination of knowledge and practices, whether explicable or not, used in diagnosing, preventing or eliminating physical, mental or social diseases and which may rely exclusively on past experience and observation handed down from generation to generation, verbally or in writing" (*Promoting the role of traditional medicine in health systems: The Strategy for the African Region, document, AFR/RC50/9, World Health Organization, Regional Office for Africa, 2001*)

1.2 HISTORY

For decades, the Nigerian State has shown interest through various resolutions, commissions and other initiatives at the Federal, State and Local Government (grassroots) level, and has also shown an appreciation for the role, which Traditional Medicine plays in health care delivery in the country. Despite the rapid expansion of conventional medicine in the last three decade and the rapid increase in its human resources, a majority of Nigerians still utilize Traditional Medicine. In addition, available evidence indicates that some herbal remedies and traditional therapeutic regimen are efficacious and affordable.

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1.3 PREAMBLE

These observations notwithstanding, Nigerians are continually being exposed to potential hazards from the use of traditional medicines, which should therefore be regulated. In view of the fact that many users administer to themselves both traditional and conventional medicines concomitantly, the potential hazards of this habit should not be underestimated and needs to be addressed. The goal of the National Health Policy is to harness all available resources for health care delivery. It is envisaged that Traditional Medicine would constitute one of the veritable means of promoting Health for All by the Year 2010 and beyond as enunciated in the National Health Policy. This will be in line with the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of African Union Member States that the period of 2001 to 2010 be the ***Decade for African Traditional Medicine.***

2.0 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the National Traditional Medicine Policy shall be to:
 - 2.1.1 Develop and facilitate the use of Traditional Medicine in Nigeria in the official health care system;
 - 2.1.2 Harness the potential and economic benefits of traditional medicine practice to accomplish the provisions of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS).
 - 2.1.3 Establish a country-specific institutional framework for traditional medicine.

3.0 VISION

To see the practice of traditional medicine in Nigeria become a respected mode of treatment, preserving our cultural heritage with respectable practitioners and providers, delivering quality healthcare to all Nigerians, and a situation in which the economic potentials of traditional medicine are also actualized to the benefit of all.

The establishment of a situation whereby both conventional and traditional medicine practitioners legally and freely render their services in parallel but in clear understanding of each other and in close collaboration at all levels of

healthcare delivery system and providing the chance for the patient to make an informed choice.

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4.0 MISSION

To create an enabling environment for the development of traditional medicine for national health system development and economic benefits.

5.0 EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE POLICY

The expected outcome of this policy therefore, is to see both the traditional and conventional health care delivery systems empowered to deliver good quality health care to Nigerians and to derive economic benefits.

6.0 THE GOALS

6.1 Health-related goals:

- i. To promote the appropriate use of traditional medicine;
- ii. To incorporate traditional medicine into the national health care delivery system.

6.2 Economic-related goals:

- i. To reduce the use of foreign currency for the importation of unnecessary medicines and to promote the exportation of manufactured traditional medicines;
- ii. To provide jobs in the area of conservation, cultivation, and harvesting of medicinal plants;
- iii. To Produce traditional medicines locally at the industrial scale;
- iv. To build up capacity in all areas of traditional medicine development (e.g. agro forestry manufacturing, distribution and marketing)

6.3 National development goals:

- i. To improve health and welfare of the population;
- ii. To contribute to poverty alleviation in the population;

iii. To contribute to the improvement of the national health profile.

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PART TWO: LEGISLATION AND REGULATION OF THE PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

1.0 LEGISLATION AND REGULATION OF THE PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS (TMPs)

There shall be legislative and regulatory instruments which shall provide for:

- 1.1 Establishment of Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Council, Boards and Committees through appropriate legislation at Federal, State, and Local government levels respectively. The Council shall be responsible for the registration of traditional medicine practitioners and all matters pertaining to their practice and welfare through the Boards and Committee.
- 1.2 Codes of ethics and practice

2.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF CODES OF ETHICS AND OF PRACTICE

The enforcement of such codes of ethics and practice shall be the responsibility of the respective Traditional Medicine Practitioners Boards and Committees at the State and Local Government levels based on guidelines formulated by the Federal Traditional Medicine Practitioner Council.

3.0 PROMOTION OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Traditional Medicine Practitioners shall be identified, screened and appropriately trained in order for them to become effective actors in the health care delivery system. Similarly, the convention health care practitioners shall be given appropriate orientation in order to achieve the desired complementarity.

Training programmes shall be established at all levels of the national health system for developing human resources in traditional medicine.

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4.0 PROMOTION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

All aspects of research into traditional medicine shall be given priority attention and steps to increase capacity and capability in the area of traditional medicine research and development shall be addressed.

5.0 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINES

There shall be increased effort on industrial development and production of traditional medicines from the abundant natural resource of biodiversity for use locally and for export. Through this, the great economic potential shall be harnessed. This development will be used to alleviate poverty, create new jobs, increase foreign exchange earnings, and improve the standard of practice and of the medicines.

6.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS OF SAFETY, EFFICACY AND QUALITY FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Standards shall be established through regulatory mechanisms to ensure the safety, efficacy and quality of traditional medicines and practice. Traditional medicines shall be appropriately regulated by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) while the practice and Traditional Medicine Practitioners (TMPs) shall be controlled by the appropriate Boards and Committees at the State and Local Government levels respectively based on guidelines formulated by the Traditional Medicine Practitioners Council. Steps shall be taken to ensure Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), Good Clinical Practice (GCP), Good Distribution Practice (GDP), Good Pharmacy Practices (GPPs) and any other good practice as may be appropriate.

7.0 CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND PRESERVATION OF INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL MEDICINE KNOWLEDGE

7.1 Efforts shall be made to conserve the abundant natural resources of biodiversity that exists in Nigeria through its sustainable utilization.

- 7.2 Existing indigenous knowledge and technology used in traditional medicine shall be preserved through documentation.

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- 7.3 The existing expertise and activities in the relevant Government Ministries shall be harnessed and coordinated to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and wastage of funds. Such Ministries shall include: Health, Agriculture, Environment, Science and Technology, Culture and Tourism, Education, and any other relevant Ministry.

8.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPRS) AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

- 8.1 Intellectual property and patent rights of individuals and institutions involved in research and development of new medicines from traditional remedies shall be guaranteed.
- 8.2 Bilateral and multilateral agreements between and among Traditional Medicine Practitioners, researchers, Non-Governmental Organizations, government agencies, companies and countries for the equitable sharing of knowledge and royalty returns shall be ensured.
- 8.3 The provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreements shall be recognized.
- 8.4 Indigenous knowledge of individuals and communities, traditional innovations and technologies shall be accorded adequate protection.
- 8.5 The orientations of the African Union Model Legislation, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) currently based respectively, in Addis Ababa, Yaounde and Harare shall be recognized.
- 8.6 The orientation of WHO as outlined in guidelines on intellectual property rights for the protection of indigenous knowledge and the opinion of the Special Working Group of Experts on Intellectual Property Rights for protection of indigenous knowledge established by the WHO Director General in 2003, shall be recognized.

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9.0 INCORPORATION OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE INTO THE EXISTING NATIONAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Appropriate measures shall be taken to develop mechanisms for incorporating traditional medicine into the existing health care delivery system.

10.0 FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND CONVENTIONAL MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS

10.1 Partnerships between conventional and traditional medicine practitioners in areas such as referral of patients, research and information exchange at all levels shall be encouraged.

10.2 Improved access to information, generation of information through appropriate research, better education and training and cross-practice collaboration, being factors for fostering partnerships, shall be encouraged.

11.0 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES

The importance and benefits of technical co-operation with other countries shall be emphasized, and mechanisms to facilitate this cooperation shall be developed

12.0 ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

12.1 Adequate funding from Federal, State and Local Government budgets shall be allocated to ensure proper integration of Traditional Medicine in National health care delivery system.

12.2 Funding arising from private sector, technical cooperation, grants, gifts, donations, etc shall be utilized as appropriate.

12.3 Financial resources shall be made available for public education and information, advocacy, and for training Traditional Medicine Practitioners through both the formal health system and associations of Traditional Medicine Practitioners.

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13.0 STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR THE POLICY

- 13.1 Strategies and mechanisms for actualizing this policy on traditional medicine shall be put in place. Such strategies shall include creation of appropriate structures for implementation monitoring and evaluation of the Policy as well as utilization of information management systems.

PART THREE: NATIONAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE STRATEGY

1.0 NATIONAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE STRATEGY

The implementation of the National Traditional Medicine Policy and the achievement of its set goals require the elaboration of strategies at the Federal, State and Local Government levels.

- 1.1 The roles and responsibilities of the different tiers of government shall be defined from time to time.
- 1.2 The managerial process for the development of traditional medicine shall be established.
- 1.3 Governments of the Federation shall translate the National Traditional Medicine Policy into strategies to achieve clearly stated objectives and whenever possible set specific targets.
- 1.4 The Federal Government shall formulate National Traditional Medicine legislation as required in consultation with relevant experts and bodies including the Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Council, Boards and Committees.

2.0 NATIONAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A more effective health care delivery can be achieved by the efficient management of all available health care resources, both conventional and traditional. In order to achieve this goal it is desirable to establish systematic managerial processes for the development of Traditional Medicine.

2.1 THE NATIONAL MANAGERIAL PROCESS

The national managerial process for traditional medicine shall be established to include the following elements:

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- a) The National Traditional Medicine Policy, which will outline the goals to be achieved.
 - b) A plan of action which describes the strategy, objectives, targets technical, human and financial resources as well as time required for policy implementation.
 - c) Allocation of resources by Governments of the Federation for the implementation of the strategies set out to achieve the goals in the Policy.
 - d) Translation of all programmes into action.
 - e) Monitoring and evaluation of the programmes with a view to possible reprogramming.
 - f) Gathering relevant information on traditional medicine and ensuring regular dissemination of needed information.
- 2.2 The Federal Ministry of Health shall, by regulation, issue guidelines concerning the National Traditional Medicine Policy, plans and programmes and shall, as it deems appropriate, revise such guidelines.
 - 2.3 In issuing the guidelines, the Federal Ministry of Health shall consult and solicit for recommendations and comments from the National Council on Traditional Medicine, State Ministries of Health, professional associations and other relevant stakeholders.
 - 2.4 The National Council on Health shall advise the Governments of the Federation with respect to the development of guidelines, implementation and the administration of the Traditional Medicine Policy.
 - 2.5 The Nigerian Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Council (NTMC) shall be represented on the Technical Committee and the general forum of the National Council on Health (NCH) where other health professional councils are invited.

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- 2.6 The Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Councils, Boards and Committees shall prepare and submit annually their work plan including budget estimates to their various Ministries and local government councils.
- 2.7 Mechanisms shall be established to monitor, control and standardize facilities and services for Traditional Medicine practice in Nigeria.
- 2.8 Each State of the Federation shall be advised to establish a State Traditional Medicine Board (STMB), which shall be responsible to State Ministries of Health. This Board shall develop, coordinate, review and implement the State workplan on traditional medicine.
- 2.9 The Federal Government may provide technical assistance to State in the establishment of the State Traditional Medicine Boards.
- 2.10 Membership of the State Traditional Medicine Board in each State shall comprise not less than 55 per cent of Traditional Medicine Practitioners with representation spread across the state.
- 2.11 Each Local Government Area shall be encouraged to establish a Traditional Medicine Committee.

3.0 NATIONAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Planning, monitoring and evaluation of health services can be greatly hampered by the dearth of reliable information on a national scale. An awareness and recognition of the possible contribution of traditional medicine to the health care delivery system underscores the need to put in place a system for gathering, managing and utilizing relevant data connected with the practice of traditional medicine.

- 3.1 A National Traditional Medicine Management Information System shall be established by the Council in collaboration with various Traditional Medicine Boards and committees as well as other relevant ministries and agencies to

gather from time to time, essential information on traditional medicine including, among others:

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- a) The number and location of accredited Traditional Medicine Practitioners in the country;
 - b) Information on the pattern of utilization of traditional medicine services;
 - c) The range of disease treated by Traditional Medicine Practitioners;
 - d) The outcomes of care in the context of traditional medicine practice;
 - e) Pharmacovigilance information on adverse reactions to medications;
 - f) The cost to the patient of traditional medicine care;
 - g) Formularies and Pharmacopoeias;
 - h) Availability of the herbs/plants being used;
 - i) Training institutions;
 - j) Traditional health care facilities;
 - k) Available traditional medicine-based products;
- 3.2 The development of the Information System shall entail data gathering at all levels – Federal, State, Local Government Community. The States shall promote and support the collection of data in all the Local Government Areas, using standardized methods.
- 3.3 As and when feasible, the State Traditional Medicine Boards shall use electronic data processing equipment for the storage, retrieval and analysis of data.
- 3.4 At the Federal level, the National Traditional Medicine Information System (NTMIS), in the Federal Ministry of Health, shall be responsible for obtaining, collating,

analyzing and interpreting all data on a national basis. The NTMIS shall be integrated into the National Health Management Information System (NHMIS).

3.5 The National Traditional Medicine Information System shall, among other purposes, be a tool for:

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- a) Ascertaining the coverage of traditional medicine practice in the country.
- b) Assessing the numerical strength, growth and pattern of skill of Traditional Medicine Practitioners
- c) Appraising the pattern of resource allocation to traditional medicine practice in particular and the health care delivery system in general
- d) Providing information to those who need to take action as well as feedback to those who supply the data and the general public.

4.0 NATIONAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

One of the principal objectives of the National Health Policy is to harness all available human resources inevitably brings into focus the role of Traditional Medicine Practitioners who shall be identified, screened and appropriately trained in order for them to become effective actors in the health care delivery system.

4.1 The State Ministries of Health, through the State Traditional Medicine Boards shall establish the structure and process for:

- a) Identifying all Traditional Medicine Practitioners recognized in their communities.
- b) Screening them through registration and accreditation for practicing traditional medicine in accordance with the national guidelines set up by the National Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Council.
- c) Strengthening their capacity to operate within the framework and national standards for practicing in the health sector.

4.2 The Ministries shall, through the State Traditional Medicine Boards, specify the classifications of the Traditional Medicine Practitioners and endeavour to promote equitable access to their services within each State.

- 4.3 The Traditional Medicine Practitioners shall be trained and equipped in order to support priority health programmes such as environmental sanitation, nutrition, personal hygiene, oral rehydration therapy, immunizations, maternal and child health, and family planning. They shall be instructed on how to make effective use of the referral process in the healthcare system.

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- 4.4 Training programmes shall be established at all levels of the national health system for developing human resources in traditional medicine.
- 4.5 Training programmes of traditional medicine practitioners (TMPs) shall take into account WHO tools and guidelines on continuing education of TMPs in Primary health care developed by WHO and other partners.
- 4.6 Training programmes of Conventional Medicine Practitioners (CHPs) shall take into account tools and guideline on continuing education of CHPs in Traditional Medicine developed by WHO and other partners.

5.0 NATIONAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY (NTMT)

The realization of the goal of Health for All Nigerians depends, in part, on the availability and utilization of appropriate and cost-effective medical technology. The use of traditional medicine is one way of reducing the country's dependence on imported medical supplies and taking advantage of indigenous efficacious and cost-effective medical technology.

- 5.1 The implementation of the National Traditional Medicine Policy shall be directed towards:
- a) Identifying and compiling all traditional medicinal plants and therapeutic techniques employed in the country by practitioners of traditional medicine;
 - b) Ascertaining the efficacy of these remedies through discretionary investigation and research into them;
 - c) Encouraging and empowering national institutions such as the universities, research institutes and quality control agencies.
 - d) Encouraging drug manufacturing companies in the country to invest in research, development, and production of potential therapeutic remedies;

- e) Compilation of all forms of technology used in traditional medicine in different communities in the country; and
- f) Regular updating and dissemination of health-related data compiled by the Federal Ministry of Health.

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6.0 NATIONAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE RESEARCH

Although there are several reports on traditional medicine in Nigeria, abundant opportunities still exist for research work most especially in relation to the range and efficacy of traditional therapies that are used. In addition, there is a dearth of human resources with regard to research capability in the area of traditional medicine. Consequently, research into traditional medicine constitutes a priority.

- 6.1 In collaboration with other relevant Ministries and agencies, the Federal and State Ministries of Health shall support research into relevant aspects of traditional medicine including, among others;
 - a) Medicinal Remedies
 - b) Herbs
 - c) The capacity of Traditional Medicine Practitioners in healthcare delivery.
 - d) Technologies that are in use in traditional medicine.
 - e) The benefits and medical complications/consequences of the remedies and other techniques that are in use.
 - f) New and improved tools for the prevention, treatment and control of diseases.
 - g) New formulations of traditional medicines.
- 6.2 Priorities shall be given to acquiring research capabilities as part of capacity building for implementing policy objectives in this regard.
- 6.3 The Federal Ministry of Health shall work closely with other relevant Ministries and agencies at Federal and State levels in the planning, execution of evaluation of research activities in order to ensure that their outcomes are adopted and applied.

7.0 CONVERSATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY, KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND CULTURE

The relevant Ministries shall, in concert, enforce laws and regulations dealing with medicinal plants, their conservation, etc and a natural biodiversity resource. The knowledge and skills of Traditional Medicine Practitioners shall also be preserved as a cultural heritage through appropriate documentation. Novel methods of preserving indigenous knowledge, e.g. the OAU Model Law, OAPI, ARIPO and WHO's guidelines on this subject shall be used to preserve indigenous knowledge on traditional medicine.

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8.0 PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPRS) AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROVIDERS AND BIODIVERSITY

The existing patent laws and other related laws shall be expanded to provide protection of traditional medicine providers, indigenous knowledge, and other traditional community technologies, as described in the OAU Model Law and WHO guidelines as well as orientation provided by Heads of State and Government through tools and guidelines developed by OAPI, ARIPO and WIPO. Intellectual Property Rights legislation shall be based on the provisions of Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

9.0 CLASSIFICATION OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINES

Classification and regulation of traditional medicines shall be carried out as laid down by NAFDAC from time to time.

10.0 FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND CONVENTIONAL MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS

Conventional medicine practitioners will be given adequate orientation and made aware of the principles of the practice and context of traditional medicine. Similarly, Traditional Medicine Practitioners will be given more information on the nature of the practice and strengths of modern medical approaches. Mechanisms shall be found for both partners to work in partnership for the enhancement of National health care delivery system.

11.0 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Technical cooperation, especially with neighboring countries particularly where similar medicinal plants grow shall be encouraged through networking of institutions conducting traditional medicine research as well as institutions teaching traditional medicine. Exchange of information, training and research personnel will also be fostered through this cooperation among countries for mutual benefit for all.

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12.0 LOCAL PRODUCTION OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINES

Traditional medicines of universal acceptance in the health care system must be produced to meet the standards of quality, safety and efficacy can be prescribed by all qualified health care practitioners.

- 12.1 The Federal and State Ministries and Local Governments shall support the production of medicines through encouragement to local industries to invest in the cultivation of medicinal plants.
- 12.2 The Governments shall create enabling political, economic, and regulatory environment for the local production of traditional medicines and to develop mechanisms for obtaining accessible and affordable traditional medicines.
- 12.3 Such medicines should be included in the national list of essential medicines.

13.0 NATIONAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE FINANCING

The promotion of traditional medicine shall, as of necessity, require community participation and private sector financing.

- 13.1 The Federal and State Ministries of Health and Local Governments shall allocate adequate funds for the operation of traditional medicine programmes and activities.
- 13.2 Government shall allocate adequate funds for research into medicinal herbs and technologies.
- 13.3 Within the laws governing the practice of traditional medicine, governments, public and private bodies, groups and individuals shall be encouraged to establish and finance: herbal homes, clinics, herbaria, botanical gardens, agro

forestry plantations of medicinal plants, manufacturing factories and other traditional medicine institutions.

- 13.4 Within the concept of self-reliance, communities and practitioners shall be encouraged to mobilize resources directly in finding solutions to health care needs through traditional medicine.

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CONCLUSION

The development of this document is evidence of the government's direction, commitment and involvement towards the institutionalization of traditional medicine in health care delivery system.

The Nigerian Government shall take advantage of the support of WHO and the political commitment of the Heads of State and government of the African Union resolutions and declarations to develop Traditional Medicine.

