

SECRET

JUNE 2018

NCH/61/003A

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH TO ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
STATE COUNCIL ON HEALTH MEETING**

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the memorandum is to inform Council on the need for States and Federal Capital Territory to conduct State Council on Health (SCH) meeting annually prior to the National Council on Health meeting.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Presently, only a few numbers of the State Ministries of Health and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Secretariat for Health & Human Services conduct the annual meeting of the State Council on Health (SCH). The meeting which is the highest policy making body on health matters brings together representatives of governments at the State/FCT and LGA levels and is led by the SMOH and its Parastatals. The SCH involves the State Ministries of Health, State Health Institutions/Regulatory Bodies, the Medical Corps of the Military/Paramilitary within the state, Development Partners working on health and health-related projects in the state, Civil Society Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations and the Organized Private Sector (OPS) in health are invited as observers to the meeting and is chaired by the Honourable Commissioner for Health.

2.2 As the apex body responsible for providing policy and strategic direction in the health sector of the States and Federal Capital Territory, the SCH at each of its meetings, serves as the platform for dialogue, experience sharing and presentation of progress reports and achievements while also addressing identified challenges within the health sector of the States and FCT.

3.0 State Council on Health (SCH) Meetings

3.1 There is the need to encourage States and FCT to hold their State Council on Health meeting two to three months before the NCH. This will serve as a spring board to the National Council on Health meeting where ideas generated via the various memoranda will feed into the NCH meeting. It is expected that this will foster improved coordination, cohesion and robust relationship among the States, LGAs, Health Partners and other relevant stakeholders within States and FCT as well as entrench ownership, sustainability, strengthened relationship, cooperation and understanding at all levels of government on health care delivery. The much needed effective implementation and monitoring of the resolutions of NCH will also become seamless and consequently yield the desired results for proper planning and decision making.

4.0 Composition of the State Council on Health

4.1 Membership of the State and FCT Council on Health (SCH) should reflect the composition as contained in the National Health Act 2014 including Local Government Area (LGA) representation.

5.0 Prayers:

5.1 **The Council is hereby invited to note that:**

- i. The State Ministries of Health and Federal Capital Territory Secretariat for Health and Human Services serve as the apex body responsible for providing policy and strategic direction in the health sector of the states and FCT;
- ii. The State Ministries of Health and Federal Capital Territory Secretariat for Health and Human Services should provide the platform for dialogue, experience sharing, presentation of progress reports and achievements as well as addressing identified challenges of the health sector;
- iii. The much needed effective implementation and monitoring of the resolutions of NCH will become seamless and yield the desired results for proper planning and decision making;
- iv. There is immediate need to mandate the State Ministries of Health and Federal Capital Territory Secretariat for Health and Human Services to initiate and resuscitate State Council on Health meeting in their respective States;
- v. Functional State Council on Health meeting, when instituted, will foster improved coordination, cohesion and robust relationship among the States, LGAs, Health Partners and other relevant stakeholders within the State, FCT and at the Federal level; and

Council is further invited to approve:

- i. States and the FCT should be encouraged to convene their respective State Council on Health meeting within two – three months prior to the National Council on Health meeting;
- ii. States and the FCT should notify the National Council on Health Secretariat each time the State Council on Health meeting is to be convened.

Honourable Minister of Health

JUNE 2018