



Circular AF 2 (2014)

To all affiliates in Africa and the Arab countries,
To all AFREC members,
To all participants who have submitted registration forms for AFRECON
To all PSI staff for information

File Reference: RP/PCH-CHM/AFRECON 2014

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Dear Colleagues,

POSTPONEMENT OF AFRECON

I regret to inform you that PSI is forced to postpone AFRECON.

We have been notified that the Ministry of Health in Botswana is now refusing to issue visas, even to citizens from countries which have been affected by individual imported cases of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). While we firmly believe that all recommendations from WHO must be respected and implemented, we disagree with such a decision that falls beyond reasonable precaution. Nevertheless, we obviously cannot consider holding a Regional Conference in circumstances where affiliates from certain countries of the region will be excluded.

In consultation with the Regional Vice-President, Peters Adeyemi, and the Regional Secretary, David Dorkenoo, I have therefore decided to postpone AFRECON and related meetings, which were due to take place in Gaborone, Botswana, from 25 to 28 November 2014.

I would like to thank the host affiliates for their commitment and investment in the last months in preparing for these events and ask for their understanding in these exceptional circumstances.

At present, we are not in a position to propose a replacement date, since it will depend on the further decision of the Botswana government. In all likelihood, it would be in 2015. You will receive information regarding the new dates as soon as possible. You can also consult the PSI website regularly for any updates www.world-psi.org.

However, AFREC members will soon receive an invitation to a meeting that, at this stage, is also necessary to assess the situation and reschedule the AFRECON.

Participants who have already started the visa procedures should contact their Sub-regional Secretary regarding any related expenses. Participants who have already purchased their air tickets should contact their travel agent urgently to cancel them and request reimbursement.

This has been a very difficult, although inevitable, decision to make and I thank you in advance for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Rosa Pavanelli
PSI General Secretary