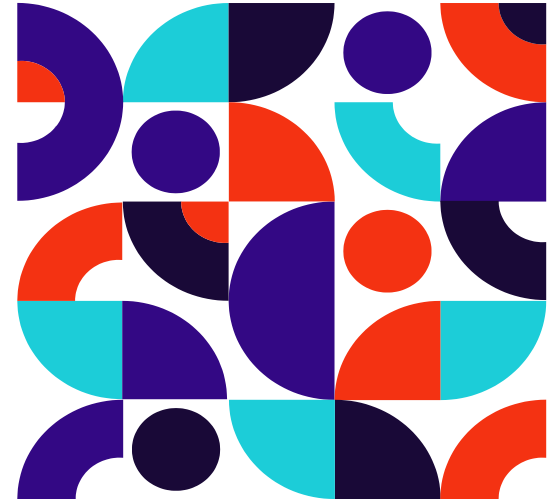




# COMMUNIQUE OF THE 35TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY & SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

FAMSA Headquarters






# Theme

SDG 3 in Africa amidst the  
COVID-19 Pandemic

20th – 23rd December, 2021


## INTRODUCTION



The 35th General Assembly of the Federation of African Medical Students' Associations (FAMSA) took place in the city of Cotonou in Benin Republic from the 20th to the 23rd of December, 2021. The theme of the conference was “*SDG 3 in Africa amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic*”, and the sub-themes included;


- Impact of COVID-19 on Healthcare and the Medical Profession in Africa
- Women and the Medical Profession: Challenges and Perspectives
- Maternal Mortality in Africa: Causes and Avenues for Reduction
- Treatment of Addictions
- Health and Mental Health Professionals
- Place of Technology in achieving SDG 3




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- Collection of Statistics and Demographic and their Contribution to the Achievement of SDG 3
  - Leadership and Entrepreneurship in Medicine

## **DAY 1**

The General Assembly and Scientific Conference began in earnest with an opening ceremony which included recognition of delegates and speakers, recitation of the Beninese National Anthem, a cultural group service presentation, and an address by the Beninese Minister of Health after which there was a group picture. The President of the Federation of African Medical Students' Associations (FAMSA), Mr Philemon Kojo-Woode, also gave an address where he urged African medical students to rise up to the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic had brought. A welcome address was also delivered by the Organizing Chairperson of the 35th FAMSA General






Assembly and Scientific Conference, Miss Viviane Oke, where she thanked the Organizing Committee members and invited them forward for recognition. She also wished everyone a good General Assembly after which there was a second cultural presentation.

The first plenary session was on the topic, **Impact of COVID-19 on Healthcare and the Medical Profession in Africa**, and the speaker for this session was Dr Agbeesi.

Delegates were treated to lunch before the commencement of the second plenary session on the topic, **Women and the Medical Profession: Challenges and Perspectives**. The speaker for this session was Prof. Gazard. Delegates then proceeded for a break as that was the last plenary session for the day. The day's events held at the Palais des Congrès de Cotonou.



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SESSION ONE




The first session of the General Assembly began at 4:47 pm with an opening address by the FAMSA President, Philemon Kojo-Woode. The Administrator of the FAMSA Headquarters, Miss Ifeyinwa Ogbogu then proceeded to introduce herself and explain the aims of the GA. She also emphasized the importance of decorum during the sessions and shared the agenda for the GA. The General Assembly Chairman and Secretary were elected as follows:

- **Uju Okafor** (Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu MSA) – *Chairman of the General Assembly*
- **Mustaphar Tukur** (Ahmadu Bello University MSA) – *Secretary to the General Assembly*


The GA Chairman, Miss Uju Okafor, then made a call for motions to amend and adopt the agenda.

The following committees were also set up with their functions described below:


- **Credentials Committee:** Their role was to receive nominations for the electoral positions 12 hours before the next GA Session. Members of this committee included:
  - Mohammed Rakiya – *Head*
  - Obinna Amaji
  - Canvenera Gyabaa
- **Financial Ad hoc Committee:** Their role was to certify that MSAs participating in the GA were financially eligible by confirming their payment of dues. They were also to verify the financial reports from the Headquarters and the Executive Council. Members of this committee included:

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- Ogooluwa Olufemi Ajiboso – *Head*
  - Olaitan Komolafe
  - Yakubu Ibrahim

Reports were given by the chairpersons of the Standing Committee on Health and Environment (SCOHE), the Standing Committee on Publications, the Standing Committee on Population Activities (SCOPA) and the Standing Committee on Medical Education and Research (SCOMER). The report of the Vice President was also taken in her absence by the SCOHE Chairperson. All reports were accepted by the General Assembly. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Professional Exchange (SCOPE) was unavailable due to school exams. A motion was moved to take the report of the committee on the morning of the 22nd, and the motion was accepted.








A report was also given by the Regional Coordinator of the East African Regional Office. Other regional coordinators were not present to take their reports, and a motion was moved to take their reports before the end of the General Assembly whenever they were available. The motion was passed, and they were also expected to submit their reports before the end of the General Assembly.

A report of the activities of the Headquarters was taken by Mr Amaji, and it was adopted by the General Assembly. The financial report of the Headquarters was then taken, as well as the reports of the Assistant General Secretary, General Secretary and Treasurer General. All reports were adopted.



## DAY 2




It began with the 3rd plenary session at the Palais des Congrès de Cotonou on the topic, **‘Maternal Mortality in Africa: Causes and Avenues for Reduction’**, and the speakers for this session were Professor Eugene Zoumenou and Mr Soro Aboudou. After the plenary session, the delegates went on a coffee break/networking session before resuming for the fourth plenary session on the topic, **‘Basics of Addictions’**, given by Dr Mystere Djenontin. This session was followed by a lunch break after which delegates returned for the fifth and last plenary session for the day on the topic, **‘Health Professionals and Mental Health’**. The speaker for this session was Dr Marinelle HOUNGBEDJI.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SESSION TWO

It began at 5:05 pm with the report of the Regional Coordinator for the West African Regional







Office taken by Mr Yankuba Jabbie. The President and Vice President also gave their reports; all reports were adopted by the General Assembly. The policies on **‘Prioritizing Youths in Promoting Healthcare in Africa’** and **‘Medical Student Engagement in Patient-centered Care’** were presented and adopted by the General Assembly.

The Constitution Review Committee began the presentation of their findings and deliberations were made.

### **DAY 3**

It began with the sixth plenary session on the topic, **‘Place of Technology in Achieving SDG 3’**. The presentation was given by a WHO expert from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Benin. Delegates then proceeded on a coffee break after which the seventh plenary session on the





topic, **‘Collection of Statistics Demographic and their Contribution to the Achievement of SDG 3’**, was given by Mr Lukman Tidjani. There was a lunch break, and afterwards, the last plenary session was held on the topic, **’Leadership and Entrepreneurship in Medicine’**. It was given by Dr Hahim Hounkpatin. The day’s events took place at the Salle de conférence de L’Institut des Sciences Biomédicales Appliquées (ISBA) à la Faculté des Sciences de la Santé de l’Université d’Abomey-Calavi, Cotonou.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SESSION THREE**

It started at 5:16 pm. The Constitution Review Committee continued their reports, and further comments and deliberations were made. The General Assembly was adjourned at 4:30 am and was to reconvene one hour after the Scientific Conference later that day.



## DAY 4




The final and last day of the 35th General Assembly and Scientific Conference ended with a tourist visit and a gala night.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SESSION FOUR**

The review of the constitution was completed and a one-hour break was taken, after which delegates reconvened at 10:47 pm to conclude the General Assembly.

Mr Kojo-Woode moved for the adoption and inclusion of the FAMSA Alumni Network in the new constitution, which was passed. The Executive Council protocol framework was also presented and adopted by the General Assembly.





Deliberations were made as to whether a new Constitution Review Committee had to be constituted to oversee the publication of the new Constitution document since all the members of the current committee had graduated. An ad-hoc committee was eventually set up.

The Credentials Committee gave its report, which included the delegates from each due-paying MSA as well as those running for positions and whether or not they were qualified to run. The Financial Ad hoc Committee also gave its report, and both reports were adopted. The General Assembly allowed nominations from MSAs that had not paid their dues, but only on the condition that they would pay within a time agreed upon by the Secretariat, and if they defaulted, they would lose their membership status and elected positions.

The following people submitted letters of interest to the Credentials Committee:



## **President**

- Yankuba Jabbie, the Gambia
- Vivian Oke, Benin Republic

## **Vice President**

- Daniella Sani, Nigeria
- Abdulmojeed Aishat, Nigeria
- Malinga Paddy, Uganda

## **West African Regional Coordinator**

- Ayodeji Ogunleye, Nigeria

## **South African Regional Coordinator**

- Bertha Musonda, Zambia

## **Chairperson, Standing Committee on Health and Environment**

- Ifeoluwa Ruth, Nigeria

## **Chairperson, Standing Committee on Medical Education and Research**

- Abdulhameed Babatunde, Nigeria

## **Chairperson, Standing Committee on Publications**

- Joshua Gideon, Nigeria



## Chairperson, Standing Committee on Population Activities

- Adaeze Ozoagu, Nigeria

## RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT – **Yankuba Jabbie**, the Gambia

VICE PRESIDENT – **Malinga Paddy**, Uganda

WEST AFRICAN REGIONAL COORDINATOR – **Ayodeji Ogunleye**, Nigeria

SOUTH AFRICAN REGIONAL COORDINATOR – **Bertha Musonda**, Zambia


CHAIRPERSON, STANDING COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH  
– **Abdulhammed Babatunde**, Nigeria

CHAIRPERSON, STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS – **Joshua Gideon**, Nigeria

CHAIRPERSON, STANDING COMMITTEE ON POPULATION ACTIVITIES – **Adaeze Ozoagu**, Nigeria

### **MAJOR RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

- In article 2.0 of the constitution, a word was added (sexuality) to the ‘shall not discriminate’ clause. It implies neither that FAMSAs support nor is against homosexuality but simply that the Federation does not discriminate against individuals on any basis, including that of sexual orientation.
- Parts of the constitution where NMOs were mentioned were to be replaced with Medical Students’ Association (MSAs).
- The numbering system was changed from the old, e.g. 1000, to the new numbering system, e.g. 1.0.

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- The FAMSA President would only be elected if he/she has attended at least two general assemblies.
  - Parts of the constitution where the word ‘Chairman’ was used were to be changed to ‘Chairperson’.

## **HOSTING RIGHTS FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

After a bidding process, it was decided that the next General Assembly would take place in Zambia in 2022. The General Assembly and Scientific Conference was brought to a close after this.



<b>MSA</b>	<b>NAMES</b>
Onabisi Onabanjo University MSA	Aishat Abdulmojeed
	Ogooluwa Olufemi-Ajiboso
	Usman Sefiu Adeshina
Bingham University MSA	Tsavsah Manasseh
	Joseph Prince Tiwe
	Daniella Sani
University of Ibadan MSA	Ebubechukwu Eriobuna
	Obinna Amaji
	Abdulhammed Babatunde





Enugu State University MSA	Ozoagu Adaeze Sandra
	Okoye Vivian Obianuju
	Chibuike Kennedy Orji
Obafemi Awolowo University MSA	Ayodeji Richard Ogunleye
	Olaitan Komolafe
	Favour Oyejide
Ahmadu Bello University MSA	Mustapha Aminu Tukur
	Rakiya Mohammed
	Joshua Gideon Aluga





University of the Gambia MSA	Yankuba Jabbie
	Musa Saidykhan
	Modou Lamin Conteh
Abia State University MSA	Ukoh Martins Chibueze
	Ihedioha Daniel Chidera
	Madu Gloria
Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu MSA	Uju Okafor
	Prestige Okonkwo





Mbarara University MSA	Malinga Paddy
	Maraka Janet
	Murungi Nathan
Cavendish School of Medicine MSA	Bertha Chanda Keziah Musonda
	Brian Chiinza
University of Abuja MSA	Philemon Kojo-Woode
	Catherine Debra
	Rabiat Mohammed



## *Acknowledgements*

### **THE 35TH GA ORGANISING COMMITTEE (Cotonou Medical Students Association (AEMC))**

- 
- **Viviane OKE**, *OC Chairperson*
  - **Robert AMOUSSOU**, *OC Vice Chairperson*
  - **Mystère DJENONTIN**, *General Secretary*
  - **Aimé YEDENOU**, *Assistant General Secretary*
  - **Véronique ABALO**, *Finances and Marketing*
  - **Moïse ASSOHOUI**, *Programmes and Logistics*
  - **Frangilo GONÇALVES**, *International delegates registration*
  - **Guy PADONOU**, *National delegates registration*
  - **Miness DAGBETO**, *Monitoring and evaluation board*
  - **Jennifer Emeka**, *Delegates welcome and host*
  - **Gilles Zountchegbe**: *Monitoring and evaluation board*
- 



## *Acknowledgements*

- **Prof Benjamin HOUNKPATIN**, *Minister of Health, Benin Republic*
- **Prof Dorothée KINDE GAZARD**, *former Minister of Health, Benin Republic*
- **Dr Célestin Alexis AGBESSI**, *MD, PhDc, UMR 196 Ceped*
- **Prof Eugène ZOUMENOU**, *MD, Anaesthetist*
- **Dr Mystère DJENONTIN**, *MD*
- **Dr Marinelle HOUNGBEDJI**, *MD*
- **Dr Razak ANDEMI**, *MD*
- **M. Soro ABOUDOU**, *Ipas Francophone Africa Representative*
- **Dr Hashim HOUNPKATIN**, *MD*
- **M. Loukman Abdel-Aziz TIDJANI**, *Project Manager*



**Obinna Amaji,**

Undersecretary to the 35th GA,  
FAMSA Headquarters.



**Toluwanimi Oyebanji,**

Board Secretary,  
FAMSA Headquarters,



**Ifeyinwa Ogbogu,**

Administrator,  
FAMSA Headquarters.



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