THE EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA COLLEGE OF NURSING (ECSACON)

15th ECSACON BIENNIAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND THE 7TH QUADRENNIAL MEETING

Esibayeni Lodge, Matsapha, Manzini, Eswatini
13th - 17th September 2022

Concept paper

Theme: Nursing and Midwifery around the world: An investment to attain Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing (ECSACON), The East Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA HC) and The Ministry of Health in the Kingdom of Eswatini and its partners have organized the 15th Biennial Scientific Conference and the 7th Quadrennial meeting to be held at the Royal Swazi SPA Convention Centre in Mbabane, Eswatini from 13th – 17th September 2022.

About ECSACON

The East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing (ECSACON) is a professional body for nurses and midwives established in 1990 in the East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) region comprising of 16 countries: Eswatini, Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

ECSACON speaks authoritatively on professional issues affecting nursing, midwifery practice and health of the community in general and is anchored in the Health System and Capacity Development Program of ECSA Health Community (ECSAHC).

The aim of ECSACON is to foster strategic Collaboration for Professional Excellence and its primary goal is to improve the quality of community health in the region through programs geared towards strengthening nursing and midwifery education, practice, research, leadership and management.
The overall role of ECSACON as a catalyst to the national health development and development of the nursing and midwifery professions is to complement government efforts in meeting the health needs of the community.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Every two (2) years, ECSACON holds a scientific conference with the aim of promoting strategic professional collaboration in nursing and midwifery practice in the region. The forth coming conference will be the 15th Biennial scientific conference of ECSACON. The conference provides a platform for the professionals to share experiences, research findings. In addition, the participants share in learn- best practices and have the opportunity for to foster networks and linkages that help to strengthen their professional base. During the COVID 19 waves in the past two years, the last such conference was hosted by ECSA-HC Head Quarters in Arusha, Tanzania in 8-10 September, 2021.

We invite organizations to partner with ECSACON and Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Eswatini in planning this conference and to sponsor as many nurses and midwives as possible to attend the conference. The conference will be structured in 3 phases:

The structure:

1. Pre---Conference closed Workshop: 11th and 12th: (Closed Sessions) To be attended on invitations only

2. The Conference: 13th, 14th and 15th: (Open Sessions) to be attended by all registered delegates (nurses & midwives, researchers, policy makers, trainers, practitioners and other health partners)

3. The 7th Quadrennial meeting to be held on 16th and 17th to be attended by all ECSACON members states and shall be open to all members and invited guests. Agenda for the Quadrennial meeting will be shared at a later date.

Special Events:

There will be an opening ceremony on the 13th, a gala dinner on 14th evening and a closing ceremony on the 15th afternoon.

Organizing team is comprised of members from the host country Eswatini ECSACON Chapter and the local organizing committee under the leadership of the Ministry of Health in the Kingdom of Eswatini. ECSA-HC Secretariat will work closely with the host country and the local committee to coordinate the preparation of the conference.

Sub-themes

The conference will be featured by the following thematic areas.

i. Building a sustainable improvement for Nursing and Midwifery workforce

ii. COVID19 Pandemic: Lesson Learnt by Nurses and Midwives as the frontline Health Workers
iii. Innovation and use of Digital Technologies in Nursing and Midwifery
iv. Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases including Mental Health
v. Sexual and Reproductive Health: Nurses and Midwives leading the reduction of unsafe abortion, prematurity and stillbirth
vi. Workplace violence

PARTICIPANTS
The Conference welcomes organizations in health improvement, policy makers, professional nurses and midwives, scholars, lecturers and other health partners from all of Africa and beyond to submit abstracts, sponsor the event and attend the conference. We aim to attract at least 600 delegates from at least 20 countries. Everyone is invited to submit abstracts via (www.ecsacon.org) for consideration.

STRATEGY
Sessions will be held through plenary interactions, sponsored workshops, symposia and scientific sessions. National and international organizations working in the field of health improvement, nursing and midwifery are invited to sponsor sessions and use the opportunity to show case, educate, train or update delegates on new knowledge, promote best practices and products on thematic issues.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS OF THE CONFERENCE
1. Global health initiatives and innovations on how to make health services cost effective and safe in the spirit of UHC and Primary Health Care discussed.
2. Nursing Now campaign activities undertaken by African countries shared
3. Best practice and lessons learnt in the areas of advanced nursing/midwifery education and practice shared.
4. Information, education as well as evidence reports provided to nurses in the region including updates on new and emerging issues on thematic areas.
5. Policy implication of scientific research findings (evidence--based--practice) identified and documented.
6. Strategic directions for sustainable quality nursing care developed and actions in mitigating the Non communicable diseases and Communicable diseases put forward.
7. Current regional collaborations affirmed and regional and global links and relationships strengthened, as well as future collaborations identified.
8. Recommendations for considerations by ECSA-HC on nursing and midwifery training, practice and regulation documented and shared through a communiqué.

For any further information and or clarification please contact the undersigned or visit our website: www.ecsacon.org

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