

STATEMENT

Epilepsy has been recently included on the agenda of WHO because it is now recognized as a real public health problem. About 50 million people are suffering from it worldwide. It is claimed that 40% of epileptic patients living in industrialized countries do not receive appropriate treatment. On the other hand, in low-income countries, around 90% of epileptic patients do not receive appropriate treatment

Africa is one of the regions in the world where epilepsy is more frequent because of the high tropism on the brain of neonatal diseases, traumatic brain injuries, infectious and parasitic diseases.

As a Chair of the Commission on African Affairs (CAA), I intend to do my best to help our Commission to extend implementation of as many as possible new Chapters all over Africa. These Chapters will contribute to determine the epidemiology of Epilepsy in our respective countries and help to make possible implementation of structures for the patients suffering of this pathology, and to avoid their stigmatization in the community.

I will also help to raise public and political decision-makers awareness of the illness. Various actions have to be taken in this order.

Finally, because of my current position as Chair of the African Regional Committee (ARC) of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), I will do my best to have ARC and CAA build partnership in our commitment to Epilepsy and pool available resources in terms of training and research.

MK Luabeya

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