

ZAMBIA HOSTS AUDA-NEPAD TECHNICAL WORKING TEAM

The AUDA-NEPAD, under the African Union, has convened a meeting in Zambia to develop terms of reference and operational documents for the African Union Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (AU-PRAC), and Signal Validation hubs.

The above structures are aimed at reinforcing Africa's capacity to detect, validate, and respond to medicines and vaccine related safety concerns, particularly in the context of emerging public health priorities.

Opening the three-day workshop taking place in Lusaka Zambia, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority Director-General Mr Makomani Siyanga said Africa is not strange to the challenge of under reporting, delayed signal detection, and insufficient risk assessment in Pharmacovigilance.

"The Covid 19 pandemic and the subsequent mass vaccination efforts highlighted both our vulnerabilities and our resilience, calling for investment in smarter, coordinated, and context specific systems that serve the needs of our populations."

Mr Makomani said Zambia was proud to be part of the third phase of the AU-3S programme expansion and recognized that no single country can address the complexities of Pharmacovigilance working in silos.

The AU-PRAC and Signal Validation hubs are structures not only meant to enhance compliance but also to help build trust, protect communities, and make data-driven decisions that safeguard public and animal health.

The Technical Working Group workshop started today, 13th May, 2025, at Southern Sun Hotel, and will end on Thursday, 15th May 2025.