

# Namibia Hosts ISoP Africa Chapter Annual Meeting 2026

## Strengthening Pharmacovigilance, Medicines Safety, and Patient Safety Through Continental Collaboration

The Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council (NMRC) successfully hosted the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) Africa Chapter Annual Meeting 2026 in Windhoek.

Stationed at the Windhoek International Convention Centre on the 18 – 20 May 2026. The conference brought together pharmacovigilance experts, medicines regulators, healthcare professionals, researchers, academics, policymakers, and development partners from across Africa and beyond to engage on matters relating to medicines safety, patient safety, and strengthening pharmacovigilance systems.

Held under the theme “Patient Safety First: Strengthening Continental Pharmacovigilance Collaboration through the African Medicines Agency,” the meeting provided a platform for scientific exchange, technical discussions, professional training, and regional collaboration aimed at strengthening medicines regulation and improving patient health outcomes across the continent.

Hosting the ISoP Africa Chapter Annual Meeting marked an important milestone for Namibia’s medicines regulatory and health sector. The meeting reinforced Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council’s (NMRC) mandate to protect and promote public health by ensuring that medicines and related substances used in Namibia meet required standards of safety, quality, and efficacy.

The conference also highlighted the importance of collaboration among regulatory authorities, healthcare professionals, academic institutions, international organisations, and communities in strengthening medicine safety systems and improving patient outcomes across Africa.

The International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) is an international non-profit organisation that promotes medicines safety through scientific research, education, professional collaboration, and capacity building. The ISoP Africa Chapter, an annual meeting

focuses on strengthening pharmacovigilance systems and knowledge-sharing across the continent.

The conference commenced with a dedicated Education Day aimed at strengthening delegates' technical knowledge and practical pharmacovigilance skills. Participants attended one of two parallel training sessions. The first training course focused on pharmacovigilance within community and hospital settings, while the second training course addressed audits and inspections: preparing your PV emergency kit.

The sessions focused on strengthening medicine safety monitoring, adverse event reporting, inspection readiness, pharmacovigilance compliance systems, and patient safety practices within healthcare and regulatory settings.

An afternoon session featured a session by the Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC) on Effective Communication in Pharmacovigilance. The session focused on practical approaches to communicating medicine safety information effectively to healthcare professionals, patients, policymakers, media practitioners, and the public.

The conference was officially opened by the Executive Director of the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Mr. Penda Ithindi, who delivered the keynote address.

In his remarks, Mr. Ithindi highlighted the importance of pharmacovigilance in strengthening healthcare systems and protecting public health. He emphasized that as access to medicines, vaccines, and emerging therapies continues to increase, ensuring their safety, quality, and efficacy remains essential.

Mr. Ithindi further reaffirmed Namibia's commitment to the operationalisation of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) and emphasized the importance of regulatory harmonisation, collaboration, and information sharing in strengthening medicine safety systems across Africa.

The three-day conference programme included scientific presentations, panel discussions, poster sessions, and technical engagements covering topics such as vaccine safety monitoring, digital health technologies in pharmacovigilance, patient-centred medicine safety, medicines surveillance systems, signal detection and management, and regulatory collaboration.

Attendees also took part in networking engagements that encouraged collaboration, partnership-building, and knowledge exchange among regulatory authorities, healthcare institutions, academic organisations, and development partners across the continent. Followed by a vibrant and elegant gala dinner. The conference attendees got to experience a relaxed environment for professional networking and cultural exchange. The evening celebrated Namibia's rich culture and hospitality through local performances, by a young and vibrant choir group, Namib Karamata and energetic Namibian live music duo, The Ells known for their acoustic, neo-soul, and soft-rock sound. Offering attendees, a memorable experience beyond the conference sessions.

The final day of the conference continued with technical discussions focused on strengthening pharmacovigilance systems, improving patient safety outcomes, and supporting sustainable regulatory systems across Africa.

The conference concluded with continued calls for collaboration, information sharing, capacity building, and strengthened pharmacovigilance systems to support the safe use of medicines and improved public health outcomes across the continent.