



**Republic of the Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul**

WHA ASSEMBLY STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER GENEVA 2023

**Agenda item 15.1: Strengthening the global architecture for
health emergency preparedness, response and resilience
A76/1**

Hon Chairperson , and all Hon delegate;

Greetings from the Smiling coast of Africa - The Gambia and congratulations on your election.

Gambia supports the statement made by South Africa on behalf of the member states of the WHO AFRO Region.

The Gambia will like to align itself with the efforts to strengthened pandemic prevention, preparedness and response - investing in equitable local manufacturing of health products and technologies.

The covid 19 has exposed the need for countries to have dependable chain of supply preferable from the region. At the Peak of the covid 19, procurement of consumables was a huge challenge especially for small nations.

The Gambia was able to have to manage the much needed PPE through a rationing method. This is not ideal. This shows that there should be more collaboration among member states in making sharing of resources during health crisis.

The Gambia through Covax was able to secure covid 19 vaccines but this was also a little delayed. The Gambia is building systems to ensure we are more resilient for the next pandemic. We now have oxygen plants for the first time in the public sector. An emergency centre is being built and our cold chain system has been strengthened .

The Gambia take note to the report and would like to ensure that effective coordination and coherence among the diverse partners and stakeholders is very important.

