



Agenda item 3 : COUNTRY STATEMENT ON THE GENERAL STATEMENTS BY COUNTRIES ON THE PLENAR FOLLOWING DG'S REPORT.

Thank you Mr President for the opportunity.

The Gambia recognised the work of WHO during the pandemic and the coordination that was handled by WHO.

We thank Dr Tedros for the leadership during the COVID 19 pandemic. WHO continues to be guided by its constitution without discrimination.

We applaud the partnerships that resulted in COVAX with the provision of vaccines to most countries in Africa. The world has demonstrated that safe guarding health is every country's responsibility. No single country can single handedly weather the storm of a pandemic. There should be sharing of technology, expertise and resources during such times of world event. The next pandemic may not be very far and thus we must all continue to be alert and prepared. The Gambia has stronger surveillance that was strengthened from the experience of Covid 19. This system since has picked up and managed few more local national outbreaks . One of them is what we called the AKI outbreak. It was a result of falsified drugs. We thank the WHO and few other countries who supported during this time.

We are happy with the new vaccines being rolled out. This will improve the out come in the fight against Malaria. The Gambia is at the Pre-elimnation stage of Malaria and another weapon in our armamentarium will expedite the road to eradication of malaria.

We continue to have very low health work force in African region. We call on all nations to prioritise the training and retention of the health workforce. This central in detection and response of any outbreak.

The Gambia has started specialisation training in clinical areas and wishes to launch National Insurance Scheme to reduce the enormous out of pocket spending by the

population in accessing health care. All these we hope to consolidate through the medium of Primary health Care.