



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

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OF

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

AT THE

76TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

21ST – 30TH MAY, 2023

GENEVA

[Please check against delivery]

The President of the 76th Session of the World Health Assembly

Excellencies and Heads of Delegations

The Director General of the WHO

Distinguished Delegates

I thank the WHO for its work over the last 75 years of its existence. It has provided global health leadership that has contributed to saving lives, promoted global solidarity in disease control, Health security, health promotion and well-being.

We are living in turbulent times characterized by pandemics, epidemics, conflict, economic stagnation and disruption of global supply chains. Such times require dialogue, solidarity, equity in resource sharing and use, partnerships and collaboration which are the most important tools for human survival. We live in a single global health eco-system where challenges affecting weak health systems can easily spiral and affect the so-called strong health systems of the developed nations. The West African Ebola epidemic and the recent COVID-19 pandemic are good examples.

We watched with dismay the avoidable mortality caused by shortage of oxygen across the world during the pandemic. This prompted Uganda, together with several Member States, to champion and sponsor a resolution on medical oxygen. I urge Member States to support and adopt this resolution during this Assembly.

Collaborative efforts leading to self-reliance through technology transfer for manufacture of vaccines, diagnostics and other pharmaceuticals should be prioritized by all Member States to strengthen health security. In our collective efforts, equity should remain an important guiding principle in enhancing partnerships and promoting global health security.

As the world focuses on pandemics, Non-Communicable Diseases and Climate Change pose immense challenges to our health systems in the face of diminishing healthcare resources and require urgent attention. However, communicable diseases like Malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS and NTDs are not attracting adequate resources required for control and elimination. I would like to remind the global health community that this remains an unfinished agenda.

Uganda notes with concern the adoption of language in various working documents that have not been extensively discussed and agreed upon. I wish to underline the importance of the use of language that is universally agreed upon and a product of wide consultation by Member States.

I acknowledge the progress made so far by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) on the Pandemic Treaty and the working group on International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) amendments. Uganda supports the establishment of an Implementation Committee which will among other things consider the reports submitted by State parties on the amendments, monitor and advise, promote international cooperation, and coordinate with WHO and its regional offices.

Excellencies, the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) remains a target for all of us to achieve. I call upon all of you to re-focus our priorities and resources towards this goal.

Thank you.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY