



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

71ST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, 21 – 26 OF MAY 2018

STATEMENT BY THE HON. DR. SILVIA P.V. LUTUCUTA, MINISTER OF HEALTH OF ANGOLA, AT THE
PLENARY OF THE 71ST SESSION OF THE WHA – 24/05/2018

- The President of the 71st WHA,
- The Director General of the WHO,
- The Hon. Ministers of Health,
- The Regional Directors of the WHO,
- The Invited Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel most honoured to join you for the first time as Minister of Health and it is with a great pleasure that I take the floor at this 71st World Health Assembly, on behalf of my own country Angola, and add our voice in the advocacy for the Universal Health Coverage.

First of all, Mr. President, please accept my warm congratulations for your election to chair this august meeting.

I would like also to extend my congratulations to the Director General for his election to lead the World Health Organization and for all that he has so far been doing since he took over this responsibility, with the support of the WHO team and from all of us as Member States, as well as the collaboration of our Health Partners.

We are aware of the responsibility that the Director General has taken on his shoulder, but we are sure that his solid knowledge and experience grants him important tools for conducting the work of the Organization and fulfil the transformation agenda towards improving the health of our populations across the entire world.

Mr. President,

We carefully listened and appreciated the report presented by the Director General. Angola is happy to add that we successfully managed to stop the repeat and overcame the challenges posed by the triple epidemic of Yellow Fever, Malaria and Dengue that have been threatening our country along these recent years, thanks to improvements in our control strategies and the technical, financial and logistical support from WHO, GAVI, CDC-Atlanta and many other partners. Our improved capacity is also allowing us to extend our solidarity and support to over 35,000 refugees

from our sister country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, providing to them the essential medical services and full immunization coverage for their women and children.

The over 70 items brought to this Assembly for discussion are very timely and the selected theme for this Assembly, the Universal Health Coverage, is the needed bridge towards health contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. Inspired in the proposed transformation agenda and counting on WHO continued technical support, we hereby stand to renew our commitment to the health for all challenge.

We are aware that, in spite of some achieved gains in issues like Poliomyelitis eradication, the interruption of the Yellow Fever epidemic outbreak, through a massive immunization of more than 26 million people, during and after the outbreak, our national health system is still challenged with many problems.

We are facing problems of efficiency and quality of care, sustainable health financing amidst the world financial crisis, issues of availability and appropriate management of health resources, including human resources for health, claiming the improvement of the regulatory capacity in the health sector to enhance the social protection of the population and the strengthening of the health system, particularly in all districts of the country. The challenges are huge, but I remain assured that the sound discussions in this World Health Assembly, the opportunity for exchanges of experience and the adoption of new approaches and strategies, will provide to us crucial tools to address our daily health challenges back home.

Mr President,

Otherwise, we fully support the statement that has already been delivered by Zimbabwe on behalf of African Region.

We also support the message on behalf of the Community of the Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) here presented by current chair Brazil. We join our voice in advocating towards seeing soon Portuguese added to UN official languages at headquarters, similar to what is already a pleasant reality at UN Regional Offices in Africa.

I thank your kind attention.