

Pillar 4: More effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries

Item 24.3: Global strategies and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year (Global strategy on digital health 2020 – 2025)

Singapore's Written Statement

Singapore strongly supports the recommendation to extend the global strategy on digital health to 2027, and to develop a new global strategy for 2028 to 2033. The extension would foster further collaborations and capacity building on digital health initiatives, establish robust frameworks for health data governance, and facilitate implementation of person-centric digital health systems and strategies.

2 In the face of an ageing population and the escalating burden of non-communicable diseases, Singapore recognises the need for a preventive approach to population health – which is embodied by our latest primary care transformation initiative, Healthier Singapore (Healthier SG).

3 With Healthier SG, the majority of primary healthcare providers, regardless of practice in the public or private sector, will be connected on a shared electronic medical record (EMR) platform. This supports holistic integrated care and provides a platform for deployment of healthcare solutions that leverage on contemporary technologies, such as artificial intelligence.

4 We recognise that digital health is not a panacea for the demographic challenges facing Singapore, but rather complementary to the roles of clinicians and other healthcare workers. Digital health strategies hold promises to deliver targeted preventive measures; however, the human touch must be preserved. Clinicians still hold the unique role of being able to understand their patients' holistic needs and the various socioeconomic determinants of health.

5 The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the integration of digital health initiatives into routine healthcare service delivery. Thoughtful development and implementation of practical digital health strategies and infrastructure must be accompanied by governance and regulatory frameworks, equitable digital inclusivity, and a whole-of-government approach to digital literacy.