

**STATEMENTS BY RWANDAN HEAD OF DELEGATION TO THE 73<sup>rd</sup>  
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY / 18–19 May 2020  
Session: 16:30-19:30**

Chairperson,  
Honourable Ministers of Health,  
Director-General of WHO,  
Distinguished Delegates,

1. The Government of Rwanda is pleased to participate in the 73<sup>rd</sup> WHO Assembly, In indeed, it is an opportunity to deliberate on the issues distressing our health systems especially at this critical time of COVID-19.

This situation is a wakeup call to the world to realize that it is inevitable to invest in our health sectors than never before.

2. Rwanda considers the primary health care approach as one of the most important vehicle for achieving universal health coverage.  
Through this approach, Rwanda reinforces a **people-centered, integrated and sustainable health care system** in order to ensure quality essential health care services as close to the community as possible.
3. In order to meet this obligation, we must hold ourselves answerable to providing equitable and affordable care services for our people.  
We must promote and support values of efficiency, accountability in order to achieve sustainable and resilient health systems.
4. In times like this, where the whole world is battling to overcome COVID-19, it is imperative to have a global solidarity and collaboration to strengthen partnership in sharing key information that will aid Governments to make informed decisions to contain Covid 19.
5. Rwanda will continue to build a resilient health system that is adaptive to changes, new demands, and new stressors such as COVID -19 and Ebola epidemic emergencies;

It is therefore important to maximize community engagement to respond to health issues, adopt healthy behavior and lifestyle, and conduct regular wide consultation with all stakeholders.

6. Allow me to conclude by commanding the work, effort and courage expressed by WHO leadership at all levels during this Covid 19 multi-sectorial crisis. We are more than grateful with all your help and sacrifices in fighting this unseen enemy and we honor your dedication to save lives

Thank you very much!