



Republic of Botswana

STATEMENT

BY

**HONOURABLE DR LEMOGANG KWAPE
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**AT THE
THE RESUMED SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

**Pillar 4: Items considered by the Executive Board (Budget,
Managerial, Administrative and Governance Matters; and
Staffing Matters)
(Agenda items 18.1 - 18.9)**

COMMITTEE B

**09 NOVEMBER 2020
VIRTUAL**



Madam President,

1. Botswana aligns with the statement made by **Ghana** on behalf of the Africa Region Member States.
2. We wish to thank the Director General for the progress update on the WHO results framework for the Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13) (2019–2023).
3. We acknowledge, with appreciation, the consultation processes and the ongoing pilot of the impact measurement system. Further scaling up of the results framework is therefore needed for the benefit of all the Member States.
4. As outlined in the Report, the Output Scorecard is a significant step in the performance measurement by the WHO. We therefore request the Secretariat to continue consultations and evaluation of the methodology and ensure that the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are aligned with regional and country context.
5. Furthermore, we wish to reiterate the importance of working in close consultation with countries and Partners to strengthen the health information systems pillar and alignment with countries' needs and priorities, in order to achieve the triple

billion targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. We therefore appreciate WHO's ongoing work in this regard.

Madam President,

6. We wish to commend the Secretariat for an informative Report summarising the programmatic and financial report for 2018–2019.
7. We note the WHO's achievements, particularly in the Africa region, as highlighted in the "***Driving Impact in Every Country***" report. In this regard, we are encouraged that the WHO will continue to build on these achievements and support countries as they rebuild their health systems in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. Regarding the health emergencies pillar, we call on the WHO to support Member States in the implementation of IHR (2005) core capacities and ensure strong health system preparedness and disease outbreaks response.
9. The current COVID-19 crisis, should therefore be used as an opportunity to support the enhancement of human capacities by investing the majority of the flexible fund and voluntary contributions to countries, based on their needs and vulnerabilities.

10. In addition, as there are interlinkages between the GPW13 Triple Billion Targets, we welcome the WHO's recommendation to look beyond the biomedical approach of health, and identify the root causes of health outcomes, including health determinants such as equity, gender, education and the environment to achieve better health and wellbeing. We therefore look forward to the consolidated strategy from WHO on how Member States can address these determinants of health in line with GPW 1.

Madam President,

11. Regarding the annual update of the Human Resources, we acknowledge the increase in the proportion of staff members holding long-term appointments in the professional and higher categories at the regional office and country office levels during the reporting period.
12. Similarly, we note with appreciation, the slight increase in the proportion of women in the professional category holding long term contracts.
13. We wish to call on the Secretariat to accelerate efforts to achieve geographical representation and equity. In this regard, particular attention must be paid to un/under-represented Member States, as per the WHO's transformation agenda.

14. We acknowledge this financial support offered to interns under the Global Internship Programme, as key to increasing the participation of interns from resource limited settings in the Internship Programme.
15. Therefore we congratulate the WHO on the ongoing efforts to offer the mentorship and leadership pathway programmes to build the capacities of staff members, including through the African Region's leadership development programme "*Pathways to Leadership for the Transformation of Health in Africa.*"
16. **Madam President**, the ***Draft Global Strategy on Digital Health***, is crucial as it holds the potential for countries to leapfrog development and expand access to services.
17. We are encouraged by the number of digital innovative solutions that have emerged from the African region, particularly during this COVID-19 crisis, and call on the WHO and Development Partners to support these innovative solutions. Botswana therefore endorses the Global Strategy on Digital Health.

I thank you for your attention.

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