

Statement of Oman's Ministry of Health
Seventy-Third World Health Assembly
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Influenza preparedness
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This pandemic had made the world recognize even more evidently the tremendous efforts made by the WHO in effectively leading global health. Throughout this difficult time, WHO has managed to maintain its technical lead role in health by keeping member states informed and updated, coordinating collective responses to the pandemic and providing guidance and support on all related aspects.

The agenda for our meeting today is rich and fulfilling, covering a range of topics that are of prime importance to all member states. We attach great value to the discussions and recommendations generated in this assembly and have great confidence in the way they frame our future strategies.

The pandemic had taught us many lessons; one important lesson that we value emphasizes the importance of PHC for ensuring continuity of

services. We have learnt that for countries to be able to combat the negative effects of such pandemics, the health system has to be strong and well structured, starting from primary health care to all levels of health service delivery.

We also learnt the importance of fostering partnership at both national and international levels and the significance of preserving working relationships with our partners and stakeholders. This not only aligns their interventions to national priorities, but also enables us to harness all support towards greater impact.

The pandemic has also taught us the importance of cultivating creativity and nurturing innovative initiatives to maximize the use of existing resources and information technology.

I would like to emphasize the need to sustain our efforts to achieve the sustainable developmental goals and ensure that we continue to progress on our global and national commitments. These remain to priorities that must receive our support at all levels. Despite the deterrence caused by COVID-19, we also reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the triple billion target that WHO has set for 2023.

I would like to conclude by an appeal to the assembly to consider utilizing the Covid-19 crisis as an opportunity; a chance to critically review our health interventions, to analyze the weaknesses and strengths of our health systems, to correct any distortions and to unleash a process

of open dialogue in which the largest possible number of all segments of society participate to express opinions, share their experience and provide advice. The pandemic presents an opportunity for applying the whole-of-government approach that we so often articulate, and can pave the way for greater multi-sectorial action that will benefit the overall health agenda.

We count on WHO to lead this process with active participation and engagement of other relevant partners and stakeholders.

Thank you very much

H.E Dr. Ahmed Al Saidi, the Minister of Health,

Oman