

73rd World Health Assembly Statement-Rwanda

Excellencies,

Honorable Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to begin by appreciating WHO for organizing this assembly and for remarkable leadership during this pandemic.

I wish to also thank Governments, partners, and civil society for the global solidarity expressed as we learn and apply measures to stop COVID-19.

The fight goes on but I'm optimistic that if we continue to combine our efforts in the search for better and easier tools combat Covid-19 such as a vaccine and therapeutics, we will win over the virus.

The Pandemic has affected all of us but has also reminded us how much stronger we are together. We have learnt that this virus tested our existing health systems, therefore investment in the health sector is a huge gain in the entire economies of our nations.

As a digital centric nation, Rwanda understands the impact of digital solutions to solve health related challenges. As such, the Government of Rwanda maximized the use of technology in:

- Surveillance and tracing
- Awareness campaigns using drones
- Home-based care using monitoring bracelets
- Visualization of data in the Command Posts to influence interventions
- GPS for tracking truck drivers
- Robots in treatment centers to reduce contact between medics and patients
- Health Management Information System (HMIS) to communicate lab results to all concerned parties

Through community and local leadership engagement and ownership, Rwanda has embarked on the journey towards the elimination of targeted Neglected Tropical Diseases affecting our rural communities by 2024.

We have now completed the dossier for the WHO validation of elimination of Human African Trypanosomiasis as a public health problem in Rwanda. Additionally, I am pleased to inform the audience that Rwanda has agreed to host the Malaria-NTDs Summit ahead of CHOGM 2021 which will gather world prominent donors and experts in June 2021.

We will continue to ensure access to health services even during pandemic – as it is a basic human right we must all strive for.

To conclude, I wish to emphasize the importance of global solidarity and collaboration, partnerships as well as key information sharing to enable Governments and other stakeholders to make informed decisions.

Thank you.