

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENDER, ELDERLY AND
CHILDREN**



**COMMITTEE B:
DATA AND INNOVATION: GLOBAL STRATEGY ON DIGITAL HEALTH
AGENDA ITEM: 10**

1. **Chairperson**, United Republic of Tanzania takes the floor to make an intervention on Agenda item 10: Data and Innovation: Global Strategy on Digital Health.
2. We welcome the draft global strategy which aims to strengthen health systems through the application of digital health technologies that will ultimately assist countries in accelerating Universal Health Coverage and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. We have also noted that the strategy responds to the objectives of WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023.
3. We accord the work done by the Secretariat in leading the process towards finalization of the Draft Global Strategy on Digital Health.
4. We note that this strategy also aligns with Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030) (2020-2030).
5. In the context of Africa region, Digital health is showing great promise in supporting health system transformation. There is a greater recognition of the importance of digital technology within ministries of health and there is also availability of mobile devices. Moreover, there has been decreasing hardware costs, and better network connectivity; and there is now a focus on integration and interoperability of digital health solutions.
6. We also wish to note that, while there has been progress on digital health in Africa, substantial barriers still remain due to the fact that primary elements to ensure smooth digital health systems have not been adequately addressed. The key barriers to scaling up of digital health interventions include weak infrastructure and device access, reliable electricity and affordable high-speed broadband connectivity in particular in the rural areas. Moreover, there is lack of sufficient and consistent funding for digital health programs and limited human resource capacity and digital skills.
7. We have noted that this strategy has been designed to be a fit for purpose and for use by all Member States including those with limited access to digital technologies, goods and services and we hope that as we implement the strategy some of these challenges will be addressed.

8. **Chairperson**, as Africa embarks on implementation of the strategy, there is a need for more coordinated approach across the globe as it has been well stipulated in the guiding principles. This can only be achieved if WHO takes leadership and assists countries to coordinate with global, regional and country stakeholders and partners.
9. Moreover, we wish to emphasise on the importance of promotion of global collaboration and advance of transfer of knowledge on digital health. We also, call for strengthening of governance for digital health at global, regional and national level in order to address the challenges pertaining to data security.
10. Lastly, the Tanzania supports endorsement of the Global Strategy on Digital Health.
11. **I THANK YOU.**