



GOVERNMENT OF TUVALU

MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE AND GENDER AFFAIRS

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (WHA)

NOVEMBER 09-14 2020

INTERVENTIONS

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TUVALU INTERVENTION NO 1.

11.1 Primary Health Care

Chair, Director General, Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates

1. Mr. President, on behalf of the Tuvalu delegation, I am honoured to deliver our country's statement on Primary Health Care.
2. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to improve Public Health systems and Primary Health Care across this Planet.
3. Tuvalu is a small state that has a population geographically spread across nine islands, where they have access to primary health programs delivered by trained health professionals.
4. In the face of COVID-19 and Climate Change, we need to re-frame not only the Primary Health Care agenda to focus on health and well-being, but we also need to consider the Climate Change and health agenda so that we have a more integrated approach to health and well-being and disease prevention.
5. The threat of NCDs, CD's and the need to address climate change and health issues and the need for better regional Health Security are real threats for our Pacific populations
6. As we jointly plan our future investment in Health: we need to consider:
 - a. The Development of a COMPREHENSIVE Primary Health Care Model (that includes Mother and Child Health) as a fundamental component of our way forward; whilst also focusing our efforts on safe surgery and clinical care.
 - Flip public mindsets and attitudes away from Curative care being the solution and focus our attention on disease prevention and health promotion.
 - Embrace new technologies (as a tool for better planning and reporting purposes).

7. The Republic of China (Taiwan) have been instrumental in their support for Primary Health services in Tuvalu and that support increased significantly this year, in the form of the many anti pandemic humanitarian assistance packages we have received and continue to receive to support Tuvalu's COVID-19 preparedness, response and readiness activities
8. The Republic of China (Taiwan) have led the world in responding to COVID-19 and indeed the Taiwan model for combating COVID-19 has received global recognition, which is well deserved.
9. It is however disappointing that WHO have not recognized Taiwan's response efforts, nor reconsidered their inclusion in WHA as an Observer.
10. Hence, we stand with many other countries in our support for Taiwan to be included as an Observer to the WHA.

Thank you