



77th World Health Assembly

Agenda Item 25

Update on the Infrastructure Fund

Geneva buildings renovation strategy and regional building projects

REFERENCE DOCUMENT A77/29

Agenda Item 26

Agreements with intergovernmental organizations

REFERENCE DOCUMENT A77/30

Agenda Item 28

Updates and future reporting: strengthening integrated, people-centred health services

REFERENCE DOCUMENT A77/32

Honorable Chair and fellow delegates

As we review the comprehensive update on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy and associated projects, it's evident that significant progress has been made since the authorization of the 50-year, interest-free loan in Decision WHA69(18) in 2016. The alignment with output 4.3.4 of the Thirteenth General Programme of Work underscores the strategic importance of creating a safe and efficient infrastructure to support WHO's operations.

The financial overview provides assurance that the financing strategy, including the use of the real estate component of the Infrastructure Fund, remains sustainable and on track. The proposed projects in Kabul and Juba reflect a proactive approach to addressing the needs of WHO offices in these regions and ensuring compliance with safety and security standards.

It's essential to continue prioritizing effective project management, financial stewardship, and strategic alignment to ensure the successful completion of current projects and the realization of WHO's long-term infrastructure goals. The proposed projects in Kabul and Juba represent important steps toward achieving these objectives and is supported by The Bahamas.

Mr/Madam Chair

Honorable Chair and fellow delegates,

The Bahamas supports the proposed agreement between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). These ongoing discussions hold immense promise for advancing global health and well-being. The OECD's



expertise in establishing evidence-based international standards aligns seamlessly with WHO's mission to promote health, ensure global safety, and serve vulnerable populations. Leveraging the OECD's knowledge in economic growth, financial stability, and trade will significantly enhance WHO's efforts to achieve universal health coverage and address global health disparities. Granting WHO observer status in various OECD committees, including the Health and Chemicals and Biotechnology Committees, is a crucial step towards deeper collaboration and information sharing. This status enables WHO to participate in key meetings and access vital documents, fostering greater cooperation.

The Bahamas believes that approving the proposed agreement between WHO and OECD will advance international development goals, address global health challenges, and promote the well-being of people worldwide.

Mr/Madam Chair,

Since 2017, The Bahamas has embarked on a journey towards Universal Health Care through the establishment of the National Health Insurance Authority, with Primary Health Care at its core. Our approach is designed to be people-centred, aimed at reducing inequalities, adopting best practices, and implementing Electronic Medical Records to monitor care quality. Initially, these advancements were limited to the private sector, leaving the public sector lagging behind. The Bahamas, being an archipelagic nation with 700 islands and cays spanning over 100,000 square miles of sea, faces unique challenges in ensuring comprehensive health care accessibility, which varies significantly across the archipelago.

Our health system is currently hindered by fragmented care delivery models and disjointed patient pathways, leading to inefficiencies, duplication of services, and a lack of standardization, ultimately resulting in suboptimal health outcomes for Bahamians. To address these challenges, in December 2021, we mandated a transformation management initiative aimed at developing an integrated health service delivery network. This initiative is in alignment with the World Health Organization's systems approach, focusing on achieving a people-centred, quality health care program through the monitoring of performance indicators and objective health outcomes. Our vision is encapsulated in the motto: "One country, one plan for health."

The transformation, led by the Ministry of Health and Wellness through the Transformation Management Office, is structured around seven pillars: 1. Stewardship and Governance, 2. Service Delivery, 3. Information Systems for Health, 4. Human Resources for Health, 5. Medicines and Technology, 6. Financing, and 7. Physical Infrastructure. Over the past nine months, we have actively engaged in this initiative, working collaboratively with stakeholders across the health sector, including public and private entities, clinical and non-clinical staff, NGOs, and civil society.



In the near future, we plan to implement electronic medical records, legislative reforms, and integrated care pathways for prevalent diseases in The Bahamas throughout the full life cycle. Our efforts also focus on engaging and retaining a skilled healthcare workforce, improving health financing, and enhancing access to medicines and health products, alongside upgrading physical infrastructure to achieve our goal of delivering integrated health services nationwide, from cradle to grave. This initiative aims to ensure that Bahamians receive the right care at the right place and time.

We recognize the significant benefits of a nationally integrated, patient-centred health service, which includes enhancing community engagement and empowerment through strengthened primary health care. This seamless integration allows smooth transitions of clients between primary, secondary, and tertiary care.

While the transformation phase will take time, The Bahamas remains committed to this journey towards Integrated Patient-Centred Health Services and will continue to keep the World Health Organization updated on our progress. We move forward, upward, onward together as a nation towards Universal Health Coverage—One Health for All!

I thank you.



SHORTENED TO 2 MINUTES

Honorable Chair,

Significant progress has been made on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy since the 2016 authorization of the 50-year, interest-free loan under Decision WHA69(18). This aligns with output 4.3.4 of the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, emphasizing the importance of safe and efficient infrastructure for WHO operations. The financial strategy, including the Infrastructure Fund's real estate component, is sustainable. The proposed projects in Kabul and Juba address WHO office needs and ensure safety standards, which The Bahamas supports.

The Bahamas further endorses the proposed agreement between WHO and the OECD. This collaboration will advance global health, leveraging OECD's expertise in economic growth and stability. Granting WHO observer status in OECD committees will enhance cooperation and information sharing, supporting WHO's mission to promote health and global safety.

Honorable Chair,

Since 2017, The Bahamas has pursued Universal Health Care through the National Health Insurance Authority, focusing on Primary Health Care and Electronic Medical Records to reduce inequalities. Initially limited to the private sector, this initiative faces challenges due to the nation's archipelagic nature. Fragmented care and disjointed patient pathways hinder the health system, causing inefficiencies and suboptimal outcomes.

To address these issues, The Bahamas launched a transformation management initiative in December 2021 to develop an integrated health service delivery network, aligned with WHO's systems approach. The vision is "One country, one plan for health." Led by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the transformation focuses on seven pillars: Stewardship and Governance, Service Delivery, Information Systems for Health, Human Resources for Health, Medicines and Technology, Financing, and Physical Infrastructure.

Efforts include implementing electronic medical records, legislative reforms, and integrated care pathways for prevalent diseases, as well as engaging a skilled healthcare workforce, improving health financing, and enhancing access to medicines.

The Bahamas is committed to achieving Integrated Patient-Centred Health Services and will continue to update WHO on our progress, striving for Universal Health Coverage—One Health for All.