



**77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly**  
**Agenda Items 29 (E, F, G, H and O)**  
**Matters for information: progress reports**

**REFERENCE DOCUMENTS A77/33 AND a77/33 Add.1**

Mr. Chair,

The Bahamas offers its contributions on Items 29 (E), (F), (G), (H), and (O).

On Item 29 E, Integrated People-Centered Eye Care,

We recognize the need to integrate eye care within primary healthcare systems and face several challenges including high rates of non-communicable diseases, an aging population, and a shortage of ophthalmic professionals. In 2023, we launched an Ophthalmic Eye Initiative with an international partner, with plans to expand in 2024. Our strategy includes enhancing the ophthalmic workforce, engaging the community, and integrating services across healthcare. We appreciate the WHO's assistance in improving eye care, particularly for conditions like diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma.



## On Human Organ and Tissue Transplantation, Item 29 F,

The Bahamas supports the Secretariat's report and commends the Director-General and Regional Directors. We plan to introduce a national organ transplant program, starting with renal transplants from live donors, in line with WHO guidelines. Challenges include raising awareness about cadaveric transplants and creating appropriate legislation. The renal program will reduce healthcare costs associated with dialysis and redirect funds to other critical health programs.

## On Availability, Safety, and Quality of Blood Products, Item 29 G,

We support efforts to strengthen national blood supply systems. Blood donations in The Bahamas are voluntary, and demand often exceeds supply. We are committed to ensuring a self-sufficient, non-remunerated blood supply and have partnered with private sectors and universities, adopting WHO tools to upgrade our blood bank and improve clinical quality and hemovigilance protocols.

## On Public Health Dimension of the World Drug Problem, Item 29 H,

We acknowledge WHO's role in addressing the global drug problem and support the Joint UNODC/WHO Program on Drug Dependence



Treatment and Care. In The Bahamas, drug abuse impacts the economy, security, and well-being. We have implemented evidence-based anti-drug interventions and strive to provide universal access to treatment and care. A strong multi-sectoral response involving public health, law enforcement, education, and social services is crucial. We appreciate WHO's guidance in this effort.

Finally, on Integrating Gender Analysis and Actions, Item 29 O,

The implementation of the MyProfile payroll and HR system aligns with our goals of achieving gender equality in the health sector. This system enhances data management, ensuring equitable remuneration and career progression across genders. The Bahamas has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.333, ranking 79 out of 166 countries. By integrating gender considerations into policies, we aim to create an equitable health sector. We seek continued support from WHO to address gender biases and promote inclusive health services.

I thank you.