



Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly
May 2024

Agenda Item 3, Health for All, All for Health

Statement of Honourable Dr Austin DEMBY, Minister of Health and
Sanitation of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Mr. President, Director-General of WHO, Excellencies, distinguished
delegates, ladies and gentlemen, my delegation wishes to congratulate the
President, on his election as President of the 77th World Health Assembly.

Mr. President, this year's Theme, Health for All, All for Health, reinforces
the critical role that the World Health Organization plays in global health.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has brought into sharp focus the importance
of WHO's mandate in leading and coordinating the global response to
pandemics and other health challenges.

Sierra Leone has faced numerous public health challenges over the years, including the Ebola epidemic that devastated our country in 2014 and the covid Pandemic, which also tested the strengths and weaknesses of our health systems. Our government remains committed to strengthening our health systems and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We recognize the critical role that WHO plays in helping us achieve this, particularly through its technical assistance and support at all levels of our health system.

In support of the theme, Sierra Leone in 2022 piloted the universal health preparedness and response flagship, further demonstrating its commitment to improving public health preparedness and response. We have also established the National Public Health Agency to respond to emergency and other disease outbreaks.

The recent global mortality estimate indicates that my country reduced Maternal mortality ratio to 443 per 100,000 live births by 2020 up from 1165 per 100,000.

We have continued to make progress in our efforts to improve the healthcare system. The Government has implemented other initiatives to strengthen the healthcare system for its citizens and improve the quality of healthcare services.

Mr. President, we remain committed to our goal of achieving universal health coverage, and we are grateful for the support we have received from development partners and international organizations like WHO.

At this 77th WHA, we must renew our commitment to work together to ensure that everyone has access to quality health services. We must leverage our strengths and resources to overcome the challenges we face and build momentum towards achieving SDGs. We call on WHO to continue to provide technical guidance and support to strengthen health systems, address health inequities, and ensure health security for all.

In conclusion, I want to express my appreciation for the tireless efforts of all healthcare workers and partners. Their dedication and selflessness should inspire us to work together to achieve health for all.

I thank you!!!!