



SOUTH AFRICA'S STATEMENT
77th SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
27 May – 1 June 2024

COMMITTEE A

**ITEM 11.7: ACCELERATION TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGETS FOR MATERNAL
HEALTH AND CHILD MORTALITY**

Chairperson,

1. South Africa aligns with the statement delivered by Tanzania on behalf of the African Region and welcomes the Report by the Director-General.
2. My Delegation notes some progress towards the global goals and targets related to maternal and child health. We, however, are concerned about the under 5-mortality rate, with deaths of newborns accounting for half of all child deaths.
3. In South Africa, maternal, newborn and child mortality rates have declined in recent years, although remaining higher than rates in other upper middle-income countries. This can broadly attributed to

South Africa's quadruple burden of disease, as well as high levels of inequality.

4. Notwithstanding, South Africa remains committed to implementing interventions to address maternal, newborn child and adolescent health. This includes measures to significantly reduce maternal, neonatal and child mortality and morbidity and increase access to quality health-care services for newborns, infants and children, as well as all women before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth. Other efforts to address the challenges include: (i) Preventing vaccine-preventable diseases; (ii) Intensifying efforts towards the elimination of HIV infection in children; and (iii) Optimising maternal, infant and young child feeding and early identification and management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).
5. South Africa enjoys the highest political leadership in dealing with maternal, child and adolescent health. In his capacity as the Chair of the Global Leaders Network, H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa is working with other leaders in advocating for investment in women, newborn, children and adolescent health and a strengthened partnership to accelerate efforts towards meeting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
6. In light of the above, South Africa is pleased to join co-sponsorship of the draft resolution led by Somalia, on the Maternal and Newborn agenda, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achievement of SDG3, especially in countries that are falling behind.
7. I thank you