STATEMENT

BY

DR JANE RUTH ACENG OCER0
MINISTER OF HEALTH

OF

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

AT THE

77TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

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GENEVA

[Please check against delivery]
Mr. President

Excellencies and Heads of Delegations

The Director General, of the World Health Organization

Distinguished Delegates

Uganda commends the DG on his leadership towards a reformed WHO. The 77th WHA comes at a time when we are striving to conclude the Pandemic Treaty and amendments to the IHR. The recent pandemic, ongoing global conflicts and climate change have clearly shown the interlinkages between health, economic growth and security.

The pandemic treaty is an important instrument to collaborate, coordinate and ensure solidarity in global health security. Despite the advances in data analytics and predictive capacities, it is still difficult to predict when the next catastrophe will occur. Un-anticipated public health crises eventually metamorphose into economic and geo-political crises. The pandemic treaty gives us an opportunity to be better prepared. Therefore, this instrument should not be symbolic but set the stage for Global commitment to action.

Furthermore, climate change poses a significant threat, straining the already overburdened health systems. Despite the growing recognition of the climate-health nexus, the health sector has been overlooked in global climate finance discussions. Uganda calls for increased resourcing to mitigate the effects of climate change on health.
Excellencies, we committed to ending AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2030. With six years to go, Africa should re-think the investment priorities focusing on adolescents and young people. Of late, some African countries are experiencing devastating Malaria epidemics, which now require a deliberate effort and investments towards elimination and eradication. Let’s not relent in our efforts towards these killer diseases.

Additionally, Reproductive, Child and Adolescent Health should retain its prominence as a global priority, as the vulnerability of women, children and young people threatens economic prosperity and security.

In conclusion, Uganda hopes that the WHO 14th General Programme of Work will support optimal functionality that we are proud to subscribe to.

I thank you.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY