



78th SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
SOUTH AFRICA NATIONAL STATEMENT
19 -27 MAY 2025

Item 24.2 Global strategy and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year

1. South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate on behalf of the 47 Member States of the African Region.
2. South Africa thanks the Director-General for the reports on the implementation of the four global strategies-
 - 📖 Global strategic directions for nursing and midwifery 2021–2025 adopted in resolution WHA74.15 (2021),
 - 📖 Global strategy on digital health 2020–2025,
 - 📖 Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017–2025,
 - 📖 Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, which are all due to expire in 2025, which all contributes towards the attainment of UHC.
3. We support the proposal to i) extend the digital health strategy to 2027 to provide adequate time for the development of a new updated digital health strategy for the period 2028–2033 for consideration by the Eightieth World Health Assembly in 2027, through the Executive Board at its 160th session, ii) extend the other two to 2030, due to slow progress towards the attainment of targets and alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to

iii) extend the global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017–2025 to 2031, in line with the intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders.

4. Although significant progress has been made in reducing stunting and wasting, the targets will not be achieved in 2025. Little or no progress has been made in tackling low birth weight in newborns and anaemia in women aged 15–49 years.
5. We urge Secretariat to support Member States to implement high impact activities in all the four areas which will have positive influence on progress towards the achievement of overall 2030 targets.
6. South Africa supports the decision to extend i) Global strategic directions for nursing and midwifery 2021–2025; ii) Global strategy on digital health 2020–2025; iii) Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017–2025 as well as iv) Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition until 2030 and supports the draft resolutions for consideration by the WHA.

I thank you.