



SOUTH AFRICA NATIONAL STATEMENT

**78TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
19-27 MAY 2025**

Item 3: REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Chairperson,

1. South Africa thanks the Director-General for his report highlighting several challenges which are aggravated by the current geopolitical environment in the global health architecture.
2. South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Honourable Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the 47 Member States of the Africa Region.
3. We note progress made in the Organization's efforts of promoting multilateral health cooperation to ensure health for all.
4. In our view, predictable funding for the WHO remains important for the sustainability of core functions of the organization. This will ensure continued funding for the Programme Budget to implement the Fourteenth General Programme of Work (GPW14) 2025–2028, at the time of financial and political uncertainty.

5. We remain committed to the increase in Assessed Contributions, coupled with robust resource mobilization efforts through Investment Round, which to-date has contributed significantly towards financing the programme of work (GPW14), following its launch in May 2024. We therefore support efforts to intensify the investment round of the WHO and implore all Member States to play their part in supporting this effort.
6. Our commitment to building resilient health systems through strengthening primary healthcare and ensuring universal health coverage remain the foundation to achieving health equity. This will require systematic, continued efforts and holistic approach a resilient, agile health systems.
7. We look forward to the implementation of the legally binding WHO pandemic agreement following its ratification. This historic Treaty will help Member States build their capacity to deal with future health emergencies and pandemics. The time to invest in health and strengthen global solidarity and cooperation is now!

I thank you