

The United Republic of Tanzania



78th WHA

Agenda Item 13.3 Universal health coverage

Chairperson, United Republic of Tanzania aligns with the Statement delivered by Kenya on behalf of African countries.

Primary Health Care is the cornerstone of Universal Health Coverage and a foundation for resilient, equitable, and sustainable health systems. As we gather today, it is crucial that we reaffirm our commitment to Universal Health Coverage as an essential right for all individuals, regardless of their geographic location. Achieving UHC is not just an aspiration it is a necessity that guarantees equitable access to essential health services without financial hardship. However, as we reflect on our progress, it is evident that disparities in access to quality and affordable healthcare persist, and we may not be on track to fully achieve the SDGs.

Chairperson, despite these challenges, we have witnessed significant achievements. Notably, Tanzania has made remarkable progress in reducing the Under-five Mortality Ratio from 162.4 per 1,000 live births in 1999 to 43 in 2022. Likewise, the Maternal Mortality Ratio has decreased from 556 per 100,000 live births in 2015/2016 to 104 in 2022. These improvements are a testament to our unwavering commitment to strengthening primary healthcare systems, which are the backbone of our health service delivery.

However, the latest report from the WHO signals that global progress towards UHC is stalling, with nearly 300,000 women dying annually from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Additionally, 2.7 million children remain unvaccinated or under-vaccinated, deepening health inequities. These statistics highlight the urgent need for focused interventions in challenging geographical areas.

Chairperson, to address these disparities, we must prioritize initiatives that enhance healthcare access in remote and underserved regions. This includes investing in telemedicine, mobile health units, and community health worker programs—solutions that can bridge the gap in service delivery. Moreover, we must continue strengthening health systems by improving infrastructure, increasing the healthcare workforce, and ensuring that essential services are available and accessible to all, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.

Chairperson, in conclusion, let us reaffirm our collective commitment to advancing Universal Health Coverage, particularly in areas that face the most significant challenges. Together, we can create resilient health systems that provide equitable access to quality healthcare for all individuals, regardless of their location. The Government of Tanzania remains fully committed to strengthening health systems that will enable us to achieve SDG Goal 3.8 by 2030—ensuring Universal Health Coverage, addressing the social determinants of health, and building resilient systems for disease preparedness and response.

Thank you.