



78th World Health Assembly, 19-27 May 2025
Intervention by Vanuatu Director of Corporate Services & Policy Planning,
Minister of Health, Dr. Samuel Posikai Tapo
(2 minutes)

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**Director-General of WHO,
Mr President,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished delegations,**

Warm greetings from the Government and people of Vanuatu.

Mr. President, I convey Vanuatu Government's warm congratulations to you on your election as President, and I assure you of Vanuatu's full support.

Mr. President, the Assembly's theme this year, **One World for Health**, resonates strongly in these difficult times, when the world is weakened by political tensions, wars, inequalities, and environmental challenges. This theme invites us all to work together, as one, for the health, peace and well-being of all. We are convinced that WHO will achieve this goal with the support of its member states.

One World for health equally aims to achieve the global health equity, ensuring that everyone, regardless of where they live, has access to essential healthcare. There is no doubt that to achieve this equity, the relationship between climate change and health must be at the heart of the public health agenda. As small Pacific Island developing Country, heavily impacted by the effects of climate change, it is important for us to understand the social and environmental determinants of health that limit the impact of health interventions.

One World for health is also synonymous with universal health coverage to achieve global health equity. This calls for international cooperation to tackle global health challenges such as pandemics, climate change and antimicrobial resistance. This means access to funding for all to innovate and collaborate, not just for governments, but also for individuals, the private sector and communities themselves. Among the critical sectors of healthcare services, primary healthcare continues to play a fundamental role in building financially, socially and environmentally sustainable healthcare systems.

Mr. President,

With limited resources and technical capacity, Small Island Developing States like Vanuatu will continue its partnerships with more developed countries and technical organizations to deliver concrete solutions to health for all. Vanuatu acknowledges its development and technical partners in strengthening our primary health care system by investing in our community health facilities and training more primary health workers.

Finally, the WHA-78 theme resonates with Vanuatu's health policy. We commit to working together with WHO and other sectors, to build climate resilient health systems to deliver Universal Health Coverage and high-quality healthcare for our people.

Let's make this WHA78 an exceptional and successful gathering, striving to make this unique World a better place for sustainable health and peace for the present and future generation.

Thank you, Mr. President.