

Statement by the Honorable Dr. D.T. Mombeshora, Minister of Health and Child Care of Zimbabwe at the World Health Assembly 2025 on Agenda Item 3

Honourable delegates, distinguished guests,

It is an honor to address you under the theme ***"One World for Health."*** As Zimbabwe strives toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC), we celebrate progress in primary healthcare expansion, disease prevention, and child health, while acknowledging persistent challenges such as resource constraints and health disparities. We call for stronger global solidarity to ensure equitable healthcare access.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgency of global health security. Zimbabwe supports the Pandemic Accord and International Health Regulations amendments to enhance preparedness and transparency. Vaccine equity and local production are priorities. To fortify our national response, we are establishing a National Public Health Institute.

Climate change has become a health crisis, fueling malaria spread, malnutrition, and infrastructure devastation. We urge WHO to

prioritize climate and health action while integrating resilience into our policies.

The digital revolution must leave no one behind. Zimbabwe is expanding telehealth as a necessity, not a luxury. We seek collaboration to bridge the digital health divide.

Investing in child health secures our future. We reaffirm our commitment to reducing child mortality through free public-sector healthcare and domestic vaccine financing.

With dwindling external aid, Zimbabwe has boosted domestic health funding from 9% to 13% in 2025, introducing innovative levies and planning a National Health Insurance Scheme.

The health workforce crisis demands urgent action. Our ambitious strategy aims to double health personnel by 2030.

Health is a human right. We call upon nations to turn pledges into action, ensuring equitable and resilient health systems worldwide.

Thank you.