



Republic of the Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul

SEVENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER, GENEVA 2026

Agenda Item: 11	Recommitting to Accelerate Progress Towards Malaria Elimination in The Gambia
Documents	A79/4
Requested action	The Health Assembly is invited to note the report and provide guidance on the questions set out below. • How can the Secretariat and Member States sustain political and financial commitment to ensure continuous investment in malaria elimination? • The global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030 calls for accelerating progress towards malaria elimination. What strategic measures would help to ensure that the 2030 elimination targets can be reached?
Time limit:	3 MINS
Commission	A

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Gambia aligns itself with the statement on recommitting to accelerate progress towards malaria elimination, delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the WHO African Region.

The Ministry of Health, with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners, is recommitting to accelerate progress towards malaria elimination in The Gambia. Overall, there has been a steady decline in annual malaria incidence nationally in recent years, from 39 cases per 1,000 population in 2024 to 20 cases per 1,000 population in 2025. The prevalence of malaria among children under 5 years remained below 1% and is at 0.8%, according to the recent Malaria Indicator Survey 2024. Building on the achievements of recent years, this renewed commitment emphasizes strengthening surveillance, expanding equitable access to diagnosis and treatment, prevention campaigns and ensuring that no community is left behind. The National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) is committed to the

country's elimination target by 2030 with WHO's technical support and guidance, aligning national strategies with the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030.

Key priorities include strengthening the case-based surveillance in the elimination regions, finalizing and implementing the National Malaria Elimination Strategic Plan (NMESP) 2026–2030, supported by a robust monitoring and evaluation framework and a fully costed roadmap to guide resource mobilization. The Gambia can sustain political and financial commitment to malaria elimination by embedding malaria into broader national development priorities, mobilizing diverse financing sources, and maintaining strong regional and global partnerships. Strategic measures aligned with the WHO Global Technical Strategy (2016–2030) include strengthening surveillance, expanding equitable access, integrating climate resilience, and investing in innovation to ensure the 2030 elimination target is achievable.

Thank you