



**Republic of The Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul**

SEVENTY-NINE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT OF THE HON. MINISTER, GENEVA, 2026

Agenda 12:10	Item: Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector.
Documents	Document A79/5
Requested action	Note the report to take the necessary and provide guidance to the Secretariat by considering the following questions: Regarding the scope and priorities for the draft global strategy on digital health for the period 2028–2033: ✓ How should health data, information systems and artificial intelligence be incorporated as interconnected pillars? ✓ What priority areas of governance, policy and financing relating to digital transformation require greater focus?
Time limit	3 minutes

Honourable Chair,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The delegation of The Gambia, aligns itself with the statement delivered by Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on behalf of WHO African Region,

The Gambia emphasizes the importance of Digital health, data systems, and artificial intelligence in transforming health systems globally. For countries like The Gambia, they present a unique opportunity to accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage, improve service delivery, and strengthen health security.

We have made significant strides in advancing digital health. Through platforms such as DHIS2, digital health forms through Smart Paper Technology, electronic Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems, ELMIS, and disease surveillance tools, we are strengthening data-driven decision-making and improving the efficiency of our health system.

However, these advancements also bring critical challenges. Fragmented systems, hosting challenges, limited interoperability, data governance gaps, cybersecurity risks, and insufficient regulatory frameworks continue to constrain the full potential of digital transformation. The rapid emergence of artificial intelligence further underscores the need for clear ethical standards, accountability mechanisms, and safeguards for data protection.

The Gambia proposes three key priorities to WHO to support low-income countries to sustain the systems and drive innovation. 1) The harmonization of digital health standards and regulatory frameworks to ensure interoperability, data quality, and system integration. 2) The strengthening of governance structures to safeguard data privacy, security, and ethical use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence. 3) Sustained investment in digital infrastructure, workforce capacity, and institutional systems to support scalable and sustainable digital health solutions.

We call on WHO to facilitate and mobilize the international community to support low- and middle-income countries through technical assistance, financing, and knowledge sharing to bridge the digital divide and ensure inclusive access to digital innovations.

The Gambia remains committed to leveraging digital health and innovation to build resilient, efficient, and people-centered health systems.

I thank you.