



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

SEVENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, GAMBIA

Geneva, 2026

Agenda Item 12.6	Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Document	Document A79/5
Time limit	2mn
Requested action	Take note of the report
Commission	B

Honourable Chair,
Director-General,
Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of The Gambia recognizes that progress on health-related SDGs remains uneven as we approach 2030. For The Gambia, advancing Universal Health Coverage is central to achieving the 2030 Agenda and ensuring equity and resilience in our health system.

We have made important progress. Guided by our National Health Policy (2021–2030), we have expanded access to essential services, strengthened governance, and improved health system performance. The enactment of the National Health Insurance Act in 2021 represents a major step towards financial protection and equitable access to care.

At the same time, we face persistent challenges, including limited fiscal space, shortages in the health workforce, infrastructure gaps, and the rising burden of both

communicable and non-communicable diseases. Climate change and emerging health threats further highlight the need for resilient health systems.

The Gambia urges acceleration towards UHC achievement through strengthened primary health care and strategic investments in the health workforce. Integrating health security into routine service delivery to enhance preparedness and response and increasing domestic resource mobilization while strengthening partnerships to close financing gaps.

The Gambia call on the international community to support country-led efforts through predictable financing, technology transfer, and capacity development.

Thank you.