



Republic of the Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul

SEVENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER, GENEVA 18-23 MAY, 2026

Agenda Item: 14.4	Implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022)
Documents	A79/10
Requested action	To take note of the report
Time limit	2 minutes
Commission	A

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Gambia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Comoros on behalf of the WHO African Region.

The Gambia thanks the Secretariat and expresses deep concern over the continued health and humanitarian consequences of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The scale and severity of the crisis, marked by high civilian casualties, persistent attacks on healthcare facilities, and widespread disruption of essential health services, has led to increased infectious disease outbreaks and growing mental health needs.

The Gambia commends WHO for its leadership in coordinating the health response, including support to more than 1,300 health facilities and the delivery of essential services to millions of affected people. We particularly acknowledge WHO's efforts to strengthen mental health and psychosocial support, advance rehabilitation services, and reinforce outbreak detection, laboratory, and surveillance capacities, both within Ukraine and in refugee-hosting countries. Support for integrating refugees into national health systems by addressing language and financial barriers is especially noteworthy and reflects strong global solidarity.

While recognizing the progress achieved, we note the persistent funding gaps. Predictable and sustainable financing remains essential to ensure continuity of essential health services.

The Gambia encourages WHO to continue strengthening coordination with partners and supporting national authorities to rebuild resilient and inclusive health systems, with particular focus on access to essential medicines, disease surveillance, and the integration of mental health and rehabilitation services into primary healthcare. We also commend the Secretariat's efforts to prevent sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment, and to strengthen accountability mechanisms.

The Gambia urges the Assembly to note the report and encourages WHO to continue advocating for global solidarity, equity, and the protection of health in all settings.

Thank you