



Republic of the Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul

SEVENTY-NINE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

GENEVA 2026

Agenda Item: 18.11	Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment
Document	A79/5
Requested action	Note the report and to provide guidance on the questions set out below. ✓ What kind of Secretariat support would be required by Member States to facilitate and accelerate the adoption and operationalization of the voluntary accountability framework for joint WHO-government operations? ✓ With humanitarian and development funding becoming scarcer, are there key approaches that WHO should pursue in its work on the prevention of and response to sexual misconduct in development and/or humanitarian settings?
Time limit	3 Mins

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Republic of The Gambia, I am honoured to address this Assembly on the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. Indeed, The Gambia aligns itself with the statement delivered by **Kenya** on behalf of WHO African Region

The Gambia joins other Member States of the African Region in strongly supporting WHO's Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PRSEAH) accountability framework and emphasizes the importance of active Member State engagement in joint efforts to address sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. Practices of silence, stigma, and under-reporting continue to undermine national responses to gender-based violence and can have long-lasting and devastating impacts on survivors and their families.

In response, The Gambia is taking proactive steps to strengthen the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment, with a strong focus on survivor-centred care, reporting, and capacity building. Led by the Ministry of Health and supported by partners, these efforts include validating standardized

GBV and SEA medical reporting tools, training health workers on the clinical management of sexual violence and adopting a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of sexual misconduct.

We are strengthening referral pathways through multisectoral collaboration, linking health services with legal, psychosocial, and law-enforcement support, including through One-Stop Centres across the country. We have also expanded comprehensive health education to empower young people and promote respectful and healthy behaviours.

Despite progress, challenges remain, particularly under-reporting and the need for sustained leadership, accountability, and partner support.

The Gambia reaffirms its commitment to ensuring safe, respectful, and survivor-centred health services grounded in dignity, justice, and zero tolerance.

Thank you.