



**Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul**

SEVENTY-NINE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER, GENEVA 18-23 MAY 2026

Agenda Item: G	Reproductive health: strategy to accelerate progress towards the attainment of international development goals and targets (resolution WHA57.12 (2004))
Document	A79/26 and A79/26 Add.1
Requested action	Take note of the report
Time limit	3 Mins
Commission	B

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

The Gambia, welcomes the report on reproductive health and reaffirms the importance of resolution WHA57.12 (2004) as a guiding framework for advancing internationally agreed development goals. The delegation commends the WHO Secretariat for its leadership in promoting reproductive health across the life course and acknowledges the report as a critical contribution to global and regional efforts.

Reproductive health is a cornerstone for achieving universal health coverage, gender equality, and health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Despite progress, the African Region continues to face major challenges, including high maternal mortality, unmet needs for family planning, adolescent pregnancy, and inequitable access to reproductive health services. These persistent gaps highlight the need for strong political commitment and resilient primary health care systems.

In The Gambia, reproductive health is a national priority delivered through a primary health care-centered approach. Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services are fully integrated into the Essential Package of Health Services and guided by the National RMNCAH Strategic Plan. This integration ensures continuity of care from community to referral levels. Priority actions include promoting skilled care during pregnancy and childbirth,

expanding access to quality family planning services, and preventing and managing reproductive health conditions.

Chair,

The delegation highlights ongoing efforts to strengthen the Maternal Death Surveillance and Response system to improve accountability and quality of care, alongside health supply chain reforms to ensure consistent availability of essential reproductive health commodities. Special emphasis is placed on adolescents and young people through the implementation of the Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy, which promotes youth-friendly services, multisectoral collaboration, and improved health-seeking behavior to reduce early pregnancies.

Further investments are being made in expanding access to modern contraceptive methods, strengthening counseling services, addressing sociocultural barriers to informed choice, building health workforce capacity, and enhancing quality improvement initiatives. Improved use of routine data, including reproductive health indicators within the national health information system, supports evidence-based policy and program development.

At regional and global levels, The Gambia stresses the continued importance of WHO normative guidance, technical support, advocacy, and South–South learning within Africa.

In conclusion, the delegation reaffirms its commitment to partnerships and sustained investment to achieve reproductive health goals that leave no one behind.

Thank you