



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: I	WHO Strategy on Research for Health
Documents:	(resolution WHA63.21 (2010))
Action requested	Take note of the progress report
Time	3mn
Commission	B

Honourable Chair, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates,

The delegation of The Gambia welcomes the progress report on the implementation of the WHO Strategy on Research for Health. We commend the Secretariat for its continued efforts to position research for health as a core function of health systems and a driver of evidence-informed decision-making.

We reaffirm that research for health is essential for advancing universal health coverage, strengthening health security, and addressing the complex and evolving burden of disease. In the African Region, research plays a critical role in ensuring that health policies and interventions are locally relevant, equitable, and responsive to population needs.

The progress report highlights important advancements in strengthening national research systems, promoting ethical oversight, and improving the translation of evidence into policy and practice. We encourage the Secretariat to sustain these efforts while placing additional emphasis on countries with limited research capacity and resources.

In The Gambia, we are strengthening health research governance through improved coordination within the Ministry of Health and enhanced collaboration with academic and research institutions. Ethical review and regulatory oversight mechanisms have been reinforced to ensure that research involving human

participants meets internationally accepted standards. We are also promoting the systematic use of research evidence in health planning, monitoring, and evaluation, particularly within primary health care and disease control programmes.

The Gambia has benefited from long-standing partnerships with regional and international research institutions, supporting capacity building, locally led studies, and knowledge generation in priority areas such as infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and health systems strengthening. These partnerships demonstrate the value of equitable collaboration that builds national ownership while contributing to global scientific knowledge.

Looking ahead, we support stronger emphasis on implementation and operational research to close the gap between knowledge generation and impact at the service delivery level. We also underscore the need for sustained investment in human and institutional research capacity, including training, infrastructure, and career pathways that retain skilled researchers within the Region.

Chair,

The Gambia remains committed to advancing research for health as a cornerstone of resilient health systems and improved health outcomes. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Secretariat and fellow Member States.

I thank you.