



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 J	Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property (resolution WHA75.14 (2022))
Document	Documents A79/26 and A79/26 Add.1
Time limit	2mn
Requested action	Take note of the report
Commission	B

The Republic of The Gambia recognizes that innovation is essential to advancing public health and achieving Universal Health Coverage. However, equitable access to health technologies remains a major challenge, particularly for low- and middle-income countries.

The Gambia recognizes the importance of balancing intellectual property protection with public health needs. We support approaches that promote innovation while ensuring timely, affordable, and equitable access to medicines, vaccines, and health technologies.

At the national level, we are strengthening our regulatory and institutional frameworks, including investments in quality assurance systems and laboratory capacity, to ensure the safety and efficacy of health products. We are also advancing partnerships to support technology transfer, local capacity development, and improved access to essential medicines.

However, challenges persist. These include limited research and development capacity, dependence on imports, high costs of new technologies, and barriers related to intellectual property and market dynamics.

In this regard, The Gambia highlights three priorities:

- Promoting equitable access to health technologies through flexible and public health-oriented approaches to intellectual property.
- Strengthening regional and global cooperation to support technology transfer, local production, and innovation capacity in Africa.
- Enhancing regulatory systems and quality assurance mechanisms to ensure safe and effective health products.

We call on the international community to strengthen support for countries to implement the Global Strategy, including through financing, capacity building, and knowledge sharing.

I thank you.