



**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: L	Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits (WHA64.5 (2011))
Documents	
Requested action	Take note of the report
Time limit	2 minute
Commission	B

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Gambia aligns with the statement delivered by The Gambia on behalf of the Member States of the African Region. Region (To be review in regional statement assigned to The Gambia, Mauritius Equatorial Guinea and to be deliver by Gambia)

The Gambia reaffirms its commitment to global health security and to the implementation of resolution WHA64.5 (2011) on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, including the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits.

We thank the Secretariat for the report and note the important progress made under the PIP Framework, including improved virus sharing, increased partnership contributions, and expanded access to vaccines and antivirals. These achievements demonstrate the continued value of the framework in strengthening global preparedness.

The Gambia recognizes that influenza remains a persistent pandemic potential and evolving threat to public health and economies. In response, we are strengthening our surveillance systems, including collaboration with the Institut Pasteur de Dakar to implement syndromic sentinel surveillance for arboviruses and influenzas. We remain committed to the timely detection and sharing of

influenza viruses of human pandemic potential through the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System.

We call for sustained support to strengthen national preparedness capacities, including laboratory systems, workforce development, and resilient health systems.

Furthermore, we emphasize that the success of virus sharing must be matched by equitable access to its benefits. Many low- and middle-income countries still face challenges in accessing vaccines, antivirals, and diagnostics in a timely and affordable manner.

We therefore advocate for transparent and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure that life-saving tools reach countries most in need.

The Gambia notes the report and reaffirms its commitment to solidarity, equity, and collective action in pandemic preparedness and response.

Thank you.