



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

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HEALTH**

TO

**COMMITTEE B OF THE 79TH SESSION OF THE
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY ON AGENDA ITEM 18.3
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA REGION**

GENEVA

21ST MAY 2026

[Please check against delivery]

Chairperson,

Uganda has the honour to speak on behalf of the African Region.

The African Region thanks the Secretariat for its efforts in reporting on the status of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears. We note the information provided in the report and recognise that timely payment of assessed contributions remains essential for the Organisation to deliver its approved Programme Budget, including normative work, technical cooperation, and emergency response functions.

The African Region recognises the sovereign obligation of every Member State to pay assessed contributions in full and on time. At the same time, we are mindful that many Member States operate in a constrained fiscal environment, shaped by debt pressures, competing development priorities, climate-related shocks and recurrent health emergencies. These realities should not diminish our obligations, but they do underline the need for constructive engagement, predictability and practical solutions.

We encourage all Member States with arrears to prioritise the settlement of these obligations through their national budget processes and to engage proactively with the Secretariat on feasible payment plans. We urge concerned Member States, where applicable, to make timely written submissions to the Director-General for special arrangements for the settlement of arrears, in line with established procedures, so as to avoid the suspension of voting privileges under Article 7 of the WHO Constitution.

Regarding the draft resolution, the African Region notes the proposal to invoke Article 7 at the next World Health Assembly, should concerned Member States remain in arrears. We encourage Member States to use the period ahead to regularize their status.

We call for the continued strengthening of efficiency, transparency and accountability in the Organization. It is essential that in the current financial environment, every resource is used prudently and with maximum impact. This will help sustain the trust of Member States and reinforce the case for timely and predictable financing.

On the assessment of new Members and Associate Members, and any amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules, the African Region stands ready to support measures that enhance fairness, transparency, accountability and sound financial governance.

Chairperson, the African Region remains committed to the sustainable financing of the WHO.

We believe that dialogue, fiscal responsibility, institutional efficiency and solidarity should guide our collective approach, so that financial constraints do not undermine the health mandate we are all committed to uphold.

I thank you.