

REQUEST BY NON-STATE ACTORS TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT AT THE HYBRID SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Non-State actors participating, either in person or virtually, in the hybrid session of the Seventy-second Regional Committee for Africa and wishing to make a statement, must submit the complete form hereunder to the Secretariat not later than one week prior to the start date of the session, that is **by 15 August 2022**.

Oral statements should not be more than one-minute long, while written statements should not be longer than 600 words. Each statement should focus on technical issues and should be directly relevant to both the agenda item under which it is presented and to the document prepared for the item. The statement should not raise issues of a political nature that are unrelated to the agenda item and should not contain any inappropriate or offensive reference to Member States. While there should not be reference to any individual Member States, or areas of Member States, it is recalled that nomenclature must follow that of the United Nations.

The Chairperson of the Regional Committee shall decide whether to accept or reject a statement in light of its relevance to the discussion, compliance with the time and word limits and the rules stated above. During the meeting, the Chairperson of the Regional Committee shall decide whether to grant a non-State actor the right to present an oral statement in light of time constraints or any other reason. Written statements admitted shall be published on the Regional Committee webpage for a limited time period and will not be retained thereafter.

Request by non-State actors to submit a written or oral statement at the hybrid session of the Seventy-second Regional Committee for Africa

Name and acronym of non-State actor (in English,):

Federation of African Medical Students' Associations (FAMSA)

Written statement

Oral statement

Name of person delivering the statement

Modality of participation: In person Virtual

Agenda item (number, title): 17.3, Progress Report on the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health 2016-2030: Implementation in the African Region.

Statement (in English,):

FAMSA acknowledges the effective measures taken by the WHO African Region Member States and stakeholders to realize the implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescent Health. It provides a roadmap for ending preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents; assisting them in achieving their potential and upholding their rights to health and well-being in all settings.

In comparison with the global strategy drafted in 2010, the current global strategy includes new strategic areas like adolescent health; humanitarian and fragile settings; an integrated life-course approach to health recognizing the links across different stages; multisector approaches; and guiding principles such as universality, human rights, equity and development effectiveness.

We recognize the need for this framework as a student organization dedicated to improving healthcare in Africa. Additionally, we would like to make few recommendations in the hope of contributing to the good work that has already been done.

We call upon the WHO African Region, Member States and all stakeholders to:

- Support Member States in building resilient health systems and making significant steps towards universal health coverage.
- Increase the capacity and skills of health-care workers and skilled birth attendants.
- Upgrade the service delivery systems and strengthen systems for collecting data on health needs.
- Improve the coordination of actions both within and outside the health service sector.
- Revise the indicators for monitoring progress to include proven interventions for older children, adolescents and adult women, especially adolescents.
- Disaggregate the intervention coverage by key markers of equity and the application of geospatial analyses to better understand who is being left behind. This information is the starting point for designing strategies to reach all women, adolescents and children, and for holding all to account for successful implementation.
- Design effective policies and programs on early childhood development and violence against women.
- Ensure uninterrupted supply of health commodities to save lives and create a healthier future for all.
- Facilitate and form multistakeholder and cross-sector partnerships as well as effective global partnerships to catalyze and support country efforts.
- Work on innovation and research to help member states understand and overcome barriers in areas such as policy, implementation and operational research; disaster risk reduction and preparedness; social, behavioral, anthropological and community studies.
- Ensure robust data and analysis to promote accountability through a cycle of monitoring, independent review and action to ensure that programs and policies are achieving their desired objectives.

This strategy with its accompanying operational framework serves as a roadmap for collective action to advance the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents, which will be central to achieving the SDGs. We realize the progress and challenges highlighted in the progress report; hence, we urge the WHO, Member States and stakeholders to use them as an opportunity to collaborate in building healthier communities.

Name: Yordanos Alem Hagos

Position: Member

Date: 15th August 2022