

Request to Submit a Statement by Accredited Non-State Actors at Sessions of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa

In accordance with Paragraph 15 of the Annex of the Document AFR/RC71/2, accredited non-State actors wishing to make a statement at sessions of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa must submit a request to the External Relations, Partnerships and Governing Bodies Unit (EPG) of the WHO Regional Office for Africa (at the e-mail address: GoverningBodiesAfro@who.int) not later than one week before the start date of the session.

The statement should respect the time and word limits set for statements by non-State actors for the relevant session, as specified in the session's information note disseminated to all participants. The statement should focus on technical issues and should be directly relevant to both the agenda item 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 be no reference to any individual Member State or areas of Member States, it is recalled that nomenclature must follow that of the United Nations.

The Chairperson of the Regional Committee decides whether or not to accord the accredited non-State actors the right to make its oral statement during the session in light of its relevance to the discussion, the time constraints or any other reason.

The statement is posted on the website of the WHO Regional Office for Africa for a limited time period as determined by the Secretariat and will not be retained thereafter.

Name and Acronym of the Accredited Non-State Actor (in English, French or Portuguese):

World Heart Federation (WHF)

Date and Title of the Session:

Title: Seventy-Fifth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC75)

Date & Venue: 25 to 27 August 2025, Lusaka, Zambia

Agenda Item (number, title): Pillar 1 - Item 9 – Regional Strategy to Strengthen Rehabilitation in Health Systems 2025-2035 (Document AFR/RC75/6)

Form of the Statement: ☐ Written ☒ Oral

If in oral form, name and function of the person wishing to read the statement:

Dr. Lilian Mbau, World Heart Federation Advocacy Committee Member

Statement (in English, French or Portuguese):

Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

The World Heart Federation welcomes the regional strategy and its proposed milestones.

We note with concern that over 210 million people in the African region require rehabilitation services, yet around 63% lack access.

For those who have experienced cardiovascular events such as heart attacks and strokes, the risk of recurrence is high. Cardiac rehabilitation provides evidence-based, cost-effective, interventions that reduce the risk of repeat events, hospitalizations, while helping patients return to productive work.

We urge Member States to:

- Ensure equitable, affordable, access to quality rehabilitation services across the continuum of care and at all levels of the health system, particularly primary care;
- Integrate rehabilitation into Universal Health Coverage health benefit packages, Primary Health Care, NCD strategies, and emergency preparedness plans;
- Strengthen the rehabilitation workforce through pre-service and in-service training, especially in primary health care; and
- Implement the Regional Strategy in line with Resolution WHA76.6 on strengthening rehabilitation.

Thank you.

Name: Dr. Lilian Mbau

Position: World Heart Federation Advocacy Committee Member

Date: 14 August 2025