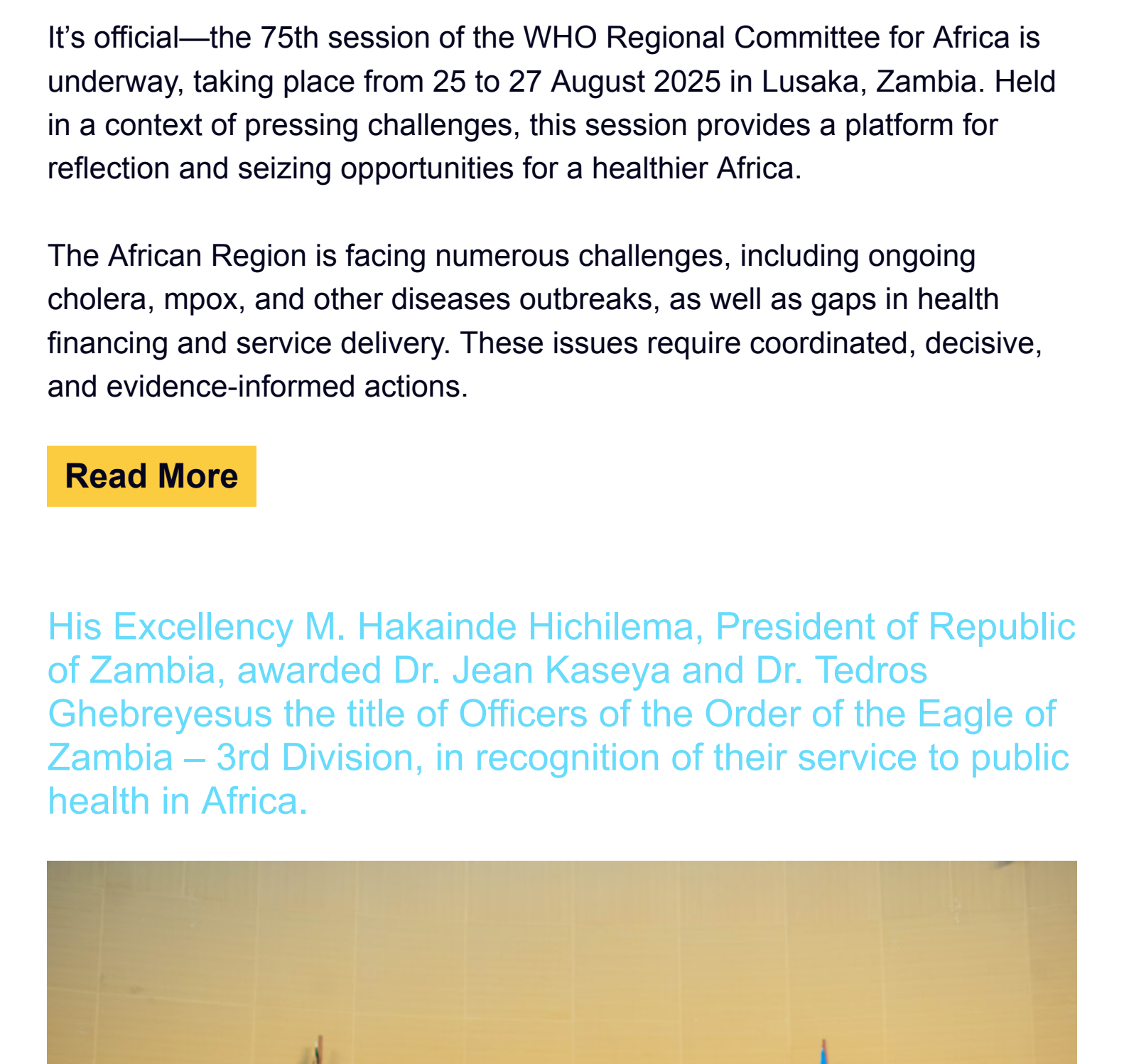


RC75 Journal English - Day 2

26 August 2025



RC75 Opens Amid Challenges, Collaboration, and Opportunities

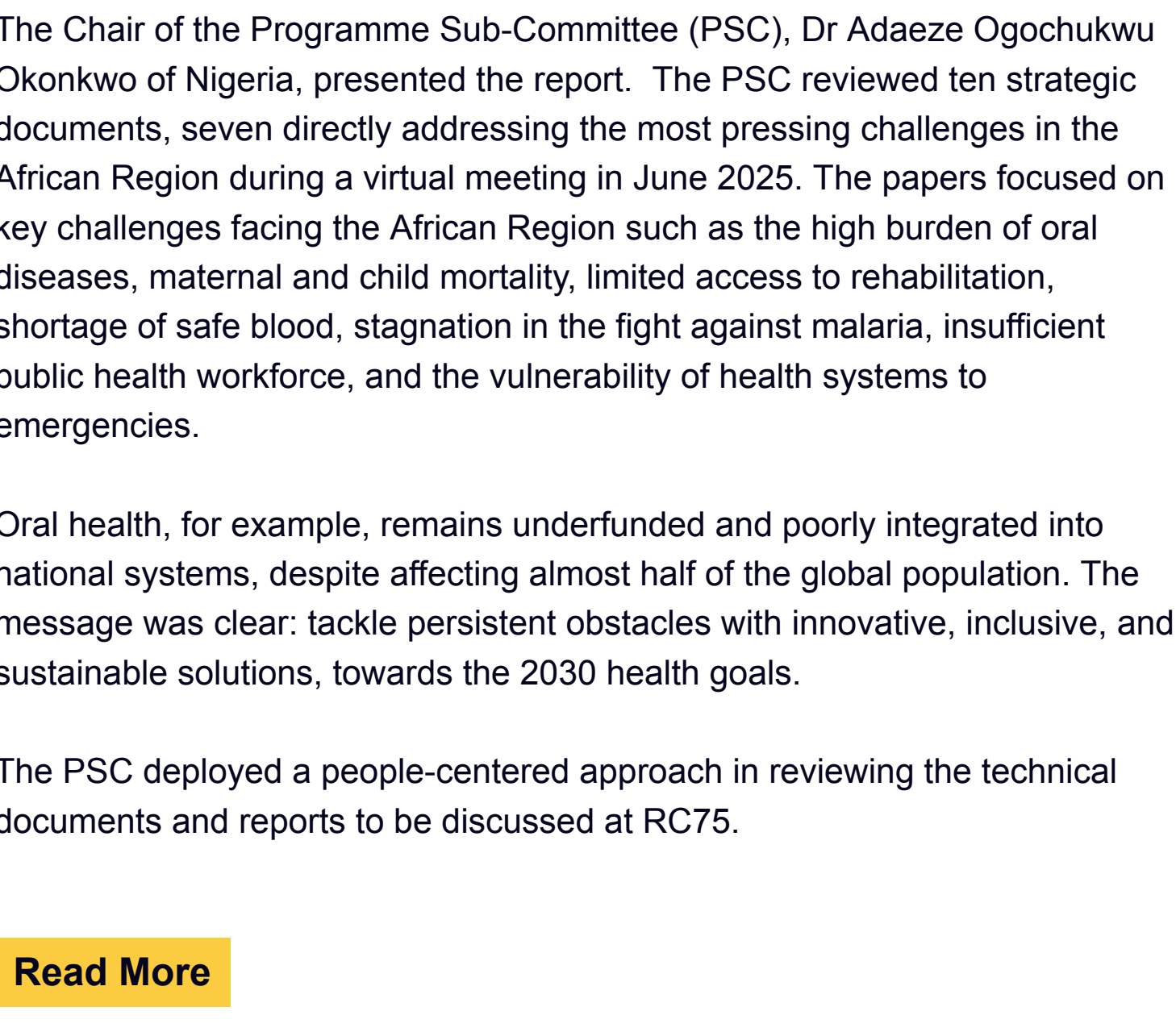


It's official—the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa is underway, taking place from 25 to 27 August 2025 in Lusaka, Zambia. Held in a context of pressing challenges, this session provides a platform for reflection and seizing opportunities for a healthier Africa.

The African Region is facing numerous challenges, including ongoing cholera, mpox, and other diseases outbreaks, as well as gaps in health financing and service delivery. These issues require coordinated, decisive, and evidence-informed actions.

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His Excellency M. Hakainde Hichilema, President of Republic of Zambia, awarded Dr. Jean Kaseya and Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus the title of Officers of the Order of the Eagle of Zambia – 3rd Division, in recognition of their service to public health in Africa.



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Shaping the Future of Health in Africa: Visions from the Programme Sub-Committee



The Chair of the Programme Sub-Committee (PSC), Dr Adaye Ogochukwu Okonkwo of Nigeria, presented the report. The PSC reviewed ten strategic documents, seven directly addressing the most pressing challenges in the African Region during a virtual meeting in June 2025. The papers focused on key challenges facing the African Region such as the high burden of oral diseases, maternal and child mortality, limited access to rehabilitation, shortage of safe blood, stagnation in the fight against malaria, insufficient public health workforce, and the vulnerability of health systems to emergencies.

Oral health, for example, remains underfunded and poorly integrated into national systems, despite affecting almost half of the global population. The message was clear: tackle persistent obstacles with innovative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions, towards the 2030 health goals.

The PSC deployed a people-centered approach in reviewing the technical documents and reports to be discussed at RC75.

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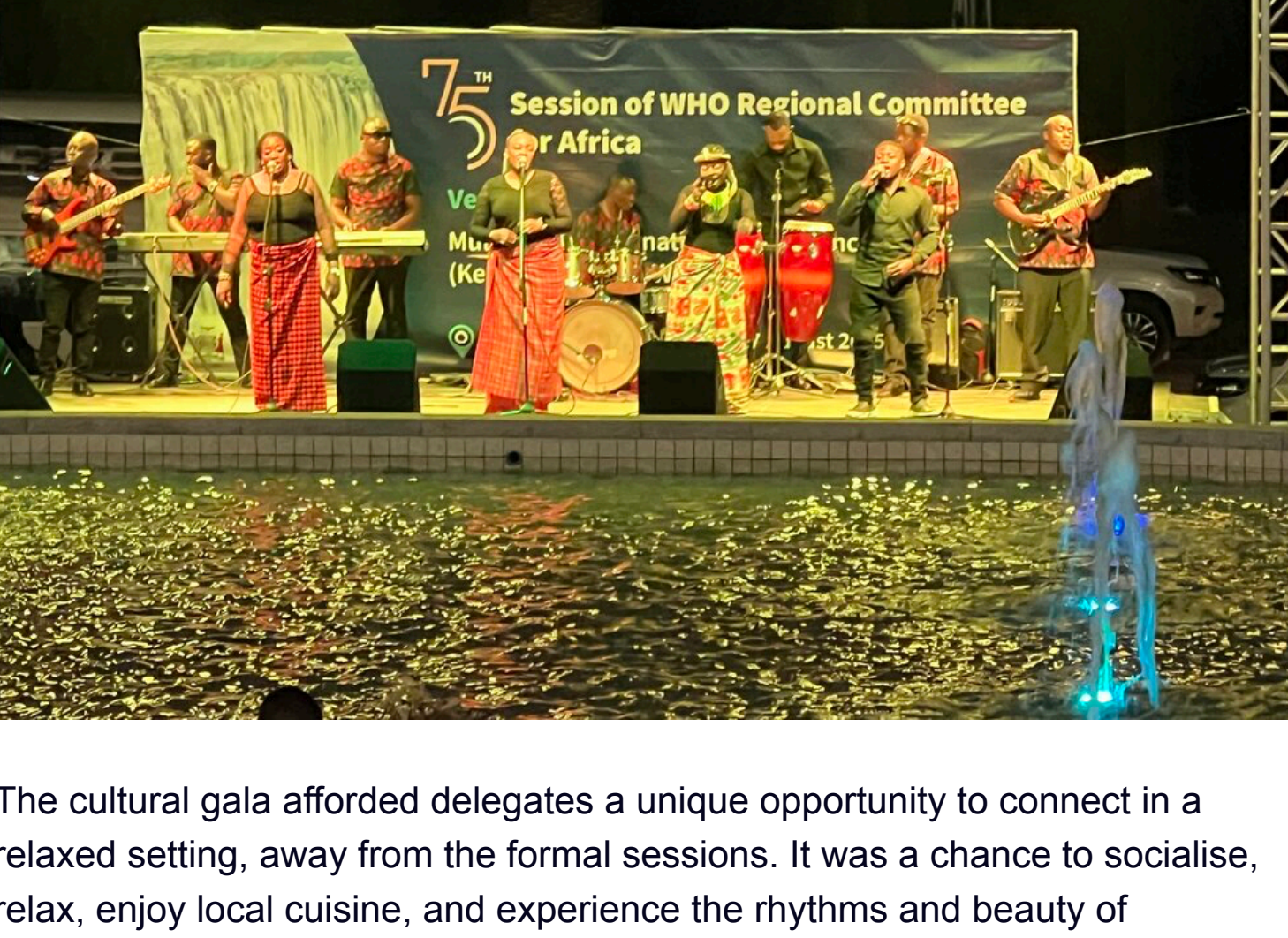
Building a stronger, smarter and self-reliant region Regional Director's Annual Report



On day one of the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, the Regional Director, Dr Mohamed Janabi, presented the July 2024 to June 2025 Annual Report, underscoring Africa's major gains in advancing public health despite facing more than 160 public health emergencies, including cholera, mpox, and Ebola.

Structured around four core pillars: scaling up Universal Health Coverage (UHC), strengthening emergency preparedness and response, building healthier populations, and reinforcing leadership, innovation and systems resilience, the report captured both achievements and persistent challenges.

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WHO Africa Sets Ambitious Targets for Safe, Effective and Quality-Assured Blood Products by 2030

African Health Ministers have endorsed a new framework aimed at advancing safe, effective and quality-assured blood products in the WHO African Region for the period 2026–2030.

Presenting the framework, Dr. Adelheid Werimo Onyango, Director for Universal Health Coverage and Healthier Populations, reminded delegates that blood is life, yet the African Region continues to fall far behind the global standards.

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Member States Adopt a New Framework to Accelerate the Fight Against Oral Diseases in the African Region

Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) for Africa adopted on Monday, 25 August 2025, during the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, the Regional Framework for the Accelerated Implementation of the Global Oral Health Action Plan.

The objective of this Framework is to strengthen the fight against oral diseases within a broad, integrated program targeting noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). It aims to align efforts toward achieving universal health coverage and health for all by 2030.

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Culture and community shine at RC75: A Night of Celebration

The cultural gala afforded delegates a unique opportunity to connect in a relaxed setting, away from the formal sessions. It was a chance to socialise, relax, enjoy local cuisine, and experience the rhythms and beauty of traditional Zambian music and dance.

Taking to the stage, Zambia's Minister of Health and newly elected RC75 President, Dr Elijah Muchima, highlighted his country's cultural richness and its people's joyful hospitality. He invited participants to embrace the values and beauty of the evening's proceedings.

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Important contacts during RC75

Emergency Medical Services

Delegates in need of medical assistance are advised to visit the sick bay at the conference venue. Delegates on long-term medication are advised to carry sufficient supplies throughout their stay in Zambia. For medical emergencies occurring outside the conference facilities, delegates should contact the Ministry of Health using the following emergency numbers and the contact offices:

- Dr Astridah Makasa (DHD Lusaka) +260 967458580 (Medical Services)
- Dr Charles Msisika (MoH) +260977824736 (Medical Services)
- Jonathan Tapalu (MoH) +260979231450
- Dr Richard Nsokanya (MoH) +260966187854.

All emergency hospital services for delegates will be arranged by the medical personnel covering the meeting.

Security Emergency Contacts

Ms Albertina Mugunga, UNDSS Security Officer in Zambia
Email: mununga@un.org
Mobile: +260 979 780104 Office: +260 211 368175

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RC75 Exhibition

Delegates are invited to visit the various exhibitions.