

## RC73 Journal English - Day 1

28 August 2023



### THE 73RD SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

28 AUGUST | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023 |

**RC73**

## The RC73 opens with a clarion call for Health For All in Africa

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Gaborone, Botswana. The Regional Committee provides us with an annual opportunity to reflect on the progress, challenges, and public health priorities across the 47 Member States of the WHO African Region. As we convene for the seventy-third regional committee, we are also commemorating WHO@75, a significant milestone in our existence.

This meeting is taking place in a specific global and regional public health context, where COVID-19 that has ravaged our world for the last almost 4 years seems to be waning with reduction of cases and deaths. Moreover, our health systems are slowly recovering to what they were before the pandemic. We are also amid working on a new pandemic treaty as well as amending the IHR.

The WHO African Region continued to experience increases in new, emerging and re-emerging diseases. During the period from July 2022 to June 2023, the Region responded to an average of 152 public health events each week. Of these events, an average of 131 were disease outbreaks while an average of 21 were humanitarian events.



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## Walk the Talk in Africa brings together hundreds of people in Gaborone



This was the 5th edition of the "Walk the Talk" under the theme: **Walk for Life - Beat Non-Communicable Diseases**

As part of its Walk the Talk campaign, WHO organized a health walk in Gaborone on Sunday morning, a day before the official opening of the RC 73 on 28th August 2023. The occasion was graced by His excellency President Masisi and the first lady of Botswana, Neo Jane Masisi. In her remarks, the 1st lady emphasized the importance of consistent physical activities among people of all age groups for prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The ceremony was also addressed by Hon Dr Edwin Dikoloti, Minister of Health and Wellness of Botswana, who welcomed the president and all the delegates and reiterated the importance of exercising regularly to ensure good health and wellness.

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## Brief Overview of the Republic of Botswana



The Republic of Botswana is located at the center of Southern Africa, bordering with South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Botswana has a landscape defined by the Kalahari Desert and the Okavango Delta, which becomes a lush animal habitat during the seasonal floods. The massive Central Kalahari Game Reserve, with its fossilized river valleys and undulating grasslands, is home to numerous animals including giraffes, cheetahs, hyenas and wild dogs.

The country is member of the United Nations (UN), the Commonwealth, the African Union (AU) and one of the founder Member States of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). It has one of the fastest growing economies in the Region.

Significant mineral (diamond) wealth, robust institutions, prudent economic management, have made it an upper-middle-income country with an aspiration of becoming a high-income country. The official estimate for Botswana's GDP was \$41 billion at the end of 2022.

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## RC73 Exhibition



Delegates are invited to visit the various exhibitions in the tent outside the GICC.

## Registration and badges

Participants are requested to register online and obtain the identification badge before the opening of the RC73 session. For identification and security reasons, the official badge must be worn by all delegates at all times during the RC73 session and during official social ceremonies. The online registration site is: <http://reg.unog.ch/e/RC73>.