

**AMATA Statement to The World Health Assembly
WHA-75**

Remarks by

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, greetings to you all.

The [UN estimates](#) that Africa currently harbors a little over 1.4 billion people, accounting for 16.7% of the global population, a population [expected to double by 2050](#). Expansion on this scale is unprecedented, attributed mainly to a youthful population without adequate access to sexual and reproductive health services, improved economies, and urbanization, currently estimated to hold 43.8% of the African people. This population will create additional demands on health supplies, commodities, and services in the health system. As noted in recent studies, [most countries](#) in the region are still dealing with high levels of child and maternal mortality, malnutrition, and the growing burden of epidemics and chronic diseases, such as diabetes. While all the 55 member states are signatories to the UHC 2030 commitment to address these health challenges and protect their most important asset, their human capital, their commitment to facilitate this through quality, safe, and efficacious medical products cannot be felt.

The African Union is spearheading efforts to strengthen the regulatory environment through the African Medicines Agency to guarantee access to quality, safe and efficacious medicines, medical products, and technologies on the continent. The African Medical Agency (AMA) will be established by Treaty to give it the necessary muscle to provide regulatory guidance, harmonize regulatory efforts of the African Union, recognized regional bodies and Member States, and enhance collaboration for improved patient access to quality, and safe medical products and health technologies on the continent. We wish to congratulate the member states that have led the way in signing this Treaty, moving us closer to achieving harmonized regulation of medical products in the continent. Some of these countries include Algeria, Benin, Chad, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, and Tunisia.

To speed up the process, the African Medicines Agency Treaty Alliance (AMATA) has been constituted to advocate for the ratification and implementation of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) Treaty by Member States. The Alliance is comprised of Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society Organisations in the health and development sector who work side by side with Ministries of Health on the continent for sustained improvement of the health of the African people. Amref is a member of the AMATA steering committee, and proudly so, given our ongoing commitment to seeing a rising healthy Africa. We have, in the recent past, worked closely with the Africa CDC in promoting equitable access to health services, especially during the pandemic response, and could not fail to realize the inequity in access to life-saving medical and non-medical products including vaccines to those most in need.

It is now almost four years since the AU Assembly adopted the AMA Treaty, but we still have some Member States that haven't given it the authority to fulfill its mandate. The increased risk of disease outbreaks in the region and globally has made access to medical products a priority. Trade in locally produced medical products, including Personal Protective Equipment, across African countries will be hampered if we do not have a harmonized regulatory environment. The African Union is sending out a clarion call to all Member States to sign the Treaty to see improved regulation and easy flow of medical products and technologies. On behalf of the Alliance and the African People whom we serve, we are here to amplify this voice by calling on all Member States to sign the Treaty. We unequivocally call on those AU Member States who have not yet ratified the AMA Treaty to do so NOW! It is an URGENT matter for the sake of ensuring that there is equitable access to quality, safe, efficacious medicines and technologies for a healthy Africa.

Today I ask for your support and collaboration to move this agenda. It is time to re-imagine the continent and develop regulatory policies that facilitate growth. I trust that you will treat this with the urgency it deserves by heeding the call to secure the health of the African people and the global community at large.

Thank you.