



ACCRA DECLARATION ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

MINDFUL OF Article 3.2 a) of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty on harmonisation and coordination of national policies, as well as promotion of programs, projects and activities in the Health sector in particular;

MINDFUL OF Article 61 d) of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty on promoting and strengthening cooperation in the field of health;

MINDFUL OF Protocol A/P2/7/87 establishing a West African Health Organisation (WAHO) which mandates WAHO to cover all the health intervention in collaboration with other countries;

We, the Health Ministers of ECOWAS and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, meeting at the High Level Summit on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) held under the auspices of the West African Health Organisation in Accra, Ghana on 25 February 2022,

1. Convinced that urgent action is needed to address the multiple political, economic, health, social, environmental challenges in our region, in particular climate change, pollution, poverty, pandemics and recurrent epidemics, internal conflicts, security threats.
2. Recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic has had significant socio economic impact and has led to worsening levels of inequality and marginalisation of large numbers of people across the ECOWAS region. It has reinforced the need for a resilient, inclusive, people-centered health system.
3. Reaffirming our respective commitments collectively and individually to the Alma Ata declaration, Ouagadougou Declaration on Primary Healthcare, Astana declaration, Abuja declaration, UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Wellbeing and other relevant initiatives.
4. Welcoming the WAHO Vision 2030 Strategic Plan having adopted, as a guiding document to mobilise and galvanise health action in our region.
5. Confirming that at the High Level Summit on Universal Health Coverage, we reviewed progress made in achieving UHC in our region, acknowledge the

different country situations and contexts. Whilst every Member State has made progress, the overall progress is unsatisfactory, with main limiting factors for UHC being financing, human resources, Health infrastructure and the availability of affordable health products.

We therefore commit to scale up our efforts and further implement the following actions:

- A. Exercise leadership in developing and implementing UHC legislation, strategies and roadmaps through a broad consultative processes, and to translate these strategies and roadmaps to medium term expenditure frameworks and national budgets.
- B. Collaborate with all other Ministers whose sectors have an impact on UHC, to ensure a whole of government and a whole of society approach, with a strengthened cooperation between Ministers of Health and Finance, as well as partnerships with other relevant stakeholders such as parliamentarians, non-governmental organisations, the academic community, the private and business sector, youth, women, aged and informal sector.
- C. Ensure adequate consultation and collaboration with traditional and religious leaders towards the efficient implementation of UHC.
- D. Ensure that health services cover the whole spectrum of promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care and ensure the package include mental health, Sexual and Reproductive Health (including family planning) and emergency services; ensure no one is left behind (especially the youth, women, children, the aged and persons with disabilities) for better health outcomes.
- E. Establish and strengthen systems for quality healthcare and quality assurance at all levels.
- F. Reaffirm the Abuja target, progressive increase in the domestic resource mobilisation, exploring innovative models and prepayment mechanisms such as national health insurance schemes to cover the informal sector.
- G. Improve efficiency through prudent financial management, effective accountability mechanisms, and transparent procurement practices in order to ensure value for money.
- H. Enhance human resource for health with emphasis on production of key personnel, and the right mix, fair geographical distribution, motivation, favourable conditions of service and retention of health personnel to maximise productivity.
- I. Expand and maintain Health infrastructure, especially in underserved and rural areas.

- J.** Promote pharmaceutical sovereignty and strengthen medicines and biological agents supply chain to ensure continuity of health services at all levels
Endeavour to reduce cost of healthcare to the citizens at all levels, through multifaceted approach to bring down cost.
- K.** Strengthen health information system for UHC particularly data collection, equity based disaggregation, analysis and performance and health outcomes monitoring.
- L.** Promote, harmonise, regulate and deploy digital technology in the health sector across member countries
- M.** Drive the use of relevant research and evidence in policy formulation amongst ECOWAS member countries through the establishment of research platforms
- N.** Encourage and promote collaboration amongst member countries, south-south collaboration and partnerships with relevant stakeholders
- O.** Take this declaration and its provisions forward through the relevant global, continental, regional, national and local processes.
- P.** To mandate WAHO to support and track the implementation of this declaration in cooperation with Member Countries and to ensure regular review of implementation progress and a biennial summit.

Signed below:

The Ministers in charge of Health of ECOWAS Member States or their representatives:



Honourable Prof Benjamin HOUNKPATIN
Minister of Health, Republic of Benin



Honourable Dr Arlindo Nascimento do Rosario
Minister of Health, Cabo Verde



Honourable Pierre DIMBA
Minister of Health, Cote d'Ivoire



*Honourable Dr Ahmadou Lamin Samateh
Minister of Health, The Gambia*



*Honourable Kwaku Ayeman Manu
Minister of Health, Republic of Ghana*



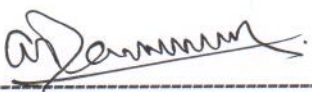
*Honourable Dr. Dionísio Cumba
Minister of Health, Republic of Guinea Bissau*



*Honourable Wilhemina S. Jallah
Minister of Health, Liberia*



*Dr Ibrahim Souley
Representative of the Minister of Health, Republic of Niger*



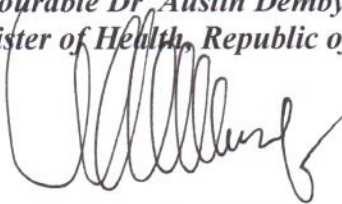
*Honourable Dr Adeleke Olorunninbe Mamora
Minister of State for Health, Federal Republic of Nigeria*



*Honourable Dr SARR Abdoulaye Diouf
Minister of Health, Republic of Senegal*



*Honourable Dr Austin Demby
Minister of Health, Republic of Sierra Leone*



*Honourable Prof Moustafa MIJIYAWA
Minister of Health, Republic of Togo*

*Honourable Mactar OULD DAHI
Minister of Health, Islamic Republic of Mauritania*