

REMARKS DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL HEALTH SUMMIT ON 5TH JUNE 2023 AT THE LABADI BEACH HOTEL, ACCRA

- Hon. Minister for Health
- The Special Guest of Honour, Mr. Pierre Laporte, World Bank Country Director
- The Chair of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health
- Development Partners
- Chief Director, Heads of Agencies and Directors present
- Representatives of MDAs, Private Sector, Academia and CSOs
- The Media
- Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to be part of the 2023 Annual Health Summit as the Chairman. Last year I was the special guest of honour but I am happy to be invited for the second consecutive time. I wish to commend the Minister for Health and MP for Dormaa Central, Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu and the entire health sector for once again pulling through this year's Summit.

For the Health Sector, this is a period to reflect and assess our achievements, successes, challenges, and plan towards achieving a healthy population for national development as enshrined in the 2020 Revised National Health Policy.

As a country, our Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is to achieve at least 80% coverage of essential health services for the population by 2030. This would culminate into the globally 2030 agenda for sustainable development while leaving no one behind.

To achieve these milestones, the Government of Ghana has identified financial sustainability and strengthening Primary Healthcare (PHC) system as national priorities that would require collective action.

It is in this light that I commend the sector for the theme of the summit which is *“Sustainable Financing for Primary Health Care Towards Attainment of Universal Health Coverage in Ghana: Role of Stakeholders”*.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you may all be aware, the Government through the Ministry of Health has developed a costed Health Sector Medium-Term Development Plan (HSMTDP) for the next four years (2022-2025), which is based on Ghana’s UHC Roadmap 2020-2030. The intention is to ensure it serves as a joint plan for coordinating and determining priorities for the health sector, as well as health investments over the next four years for all health partners and stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a fact that annual health spending in Ghana falls short of the Abuja declaration of 15% of general government expenditure. As of 2020, Ghana’s general spending on health was 7%, same as the previous year. In addition, donor funding has dwindled since 2010 when Ghana became a lower middle-income country status.

Between 2015 and 2020, donor funding for the health sector has declined from 25% to 9%.

Furthermore, like many other African countries, Ghana's financial situation has been weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic and the spillover from the Russian invasion in Ukraine, which is most likely to have negative implications for the availability of resources for the health sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is because of these and many others that we have assembled here for the next three days to effectively deliberate on the theme for the summit as we try to reach the 80% target of providing essential healthcare service to all people living in Ghana.

On this note, I am therefore pleased to be the Chairman of this year's Summit. I have no doubt that with the calibre of experts gathered here, we will surely come up with the actionable financing strategies to achieve our desired objective as a country.

Thank you.