



WELCOMING REMARKS BY ALHAJI HAFIZ ADAM, CHIEF DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2023 HEALTH SUMMIT ON 5TH JUNE 2023 AT THE LABADI BEACH HOTEL, ACCRA

Mr. Chairman, Dr. Anarfi Asamoah-Baah

The Special Guest of Honour, Mr. Pierre Laporte, Outgoing Country Representative of the World Bank to Ghana

Minister for Health & MP for Dormaa Central, Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu

The Chair, Parliamentary Select Committee on Health, Hon. Nana Ayew Afriyie

Distinguished Heads of Agencies of the Ministry of Health

The Lead, Health Sector Development Partner, Dr. Uzoamaka Gilpin

Directors of the Ministry of Health and other MoH Agencies

Distinguished Virtual Participants

Experts and Resource Persons Present

Members of the Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Permit me to welcome you all to the opening ceremony of the 2023 Health Summit. As we are all aware, the Health Summit is one of the most important events on the calendar of the Health Sector. The Summit platform is an annual feature that brings us all together to take stock of

our performance in the previous year. It is also a form of being accountable to the people of Ghana, to whom our services are provided.

Mr. Chairman, the theme of this year's Health Summit is "***Sustainable Financing for Primary Health Care Towards Attainment of Universal Health Coverage in Ghana: Role of Stakeholders***". Such a theme is apt and clearly outlines our desired intentions of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all people in Ghana, using Primary Health Care (PHC) as the purpose vehicle. This aligns directly with our Universal Health Coverage Roadmap (2020-2030), which proposes carefully thought-through and innovative strategic interventions, taking cognizance of our current context for health service delivery. We are determined to change the narrative around PHC as being "**Poor Care for Poor People**" to the ideal of it being "**Smart Care for All**". By this, it is heartening to note that we are nearing the finalization of our Health Sector Financing Strategy, which is proposing that, we commit at least 50% of our total health budget to primary health care services to fast-track our journey towards attaining UHC for all by 2030.

The theme also highlights the role of stakeholders in attaining the UHC goal. This is also firmly grounded in our National Health Policy (2020) which calls for the use of multisectoral collaboration as a mechanism for addressing in a comprehensive manner, all the social determinants of health. This means that, we cannot do it all alone as a sector, and that addressing the health needs of the people of Ghana will require the support of all our stakeholders. The COVID-19 pandemic response is a

test case to this assertion, and I believe that the support we received from our partners, collaborators, and all our stakeholders was the game changer in our successful national response.

Ladies and Gentlemen, tomorrow, there will be breakout sessions to focus on some critical areas of the theme to stimulate discussions between us and you, our stakeholders. These areas are:

- Resource Mobilization for PHC
- Resource Allocation for PHC
- Strategic Purchasing for PHC

To this end, let me entreat all of us to heed this call and come to the discussion table where we can take key decisions to improve our health system for a better quality of life for all. It is our hope that all the key decision points will culminate in our Aide Memoire for our next implementing year and will be the main source document to guide our scheme of work.

On this note ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to call on all stakeholders to support the course of the Ministry of Health and its Agencies as we chart the route towards UHC for all.

Permit me to thank all our Development Partners who provided various support to the successful organization of this year's Summit.

I welcome you all once again and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.