



THE 74TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY STATEMENT ON THE POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE THIRD HIGH- LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs)- ORAL HEALTH

Chairperson

Malawi is in support of the Executive Board Resolution and we are pleased that this is the opportune time for this resolution and we wish to agree with the Director General that this is indeed a “Landmark resolution on Oral Health.”

Since the 2007 World Health Assembly statement on Oral Health (WHA60.17) which called on Member States to ensure that public health actions for disease prevention and health promotion are established, it has been shown that:

- Coverage of population groups by primary oral health care and emergency care varied by national income.
- Inequities between countries in oral disease prevention and health promotion are substantial.
- Limited financial resources for preventive care and health promotion, inadequate workforce for oral health and insufficient coverage in primary health care were observed in low – resource countries.
- There is need for building effective oral health systems oriented towards oral health disease prevention and promotion.

Chairperson

WHO resolution urges Member States, taking into account their national circumstances to:

- Understand and address the key risk factors for poor oral health and associated burden of disease
- Foster the integration of oral health within their national policies, including through the promotion of articulated interministerial and intersectoral work
- Reorient the traditional curative approach, which is basically pathogenic, and move towards a preventive promotional approach with risk identification for timely, comprehensive and inclusive care, taking into account all stakeholders in contributing to the improvement of the oral health of the population with a positive impact on overall health
- Promote the development and implementation of policies to promote efficient workforce models for oral health services.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of effective surveillance and monitoring systems.
- Map and track the concentration of fluoride in drinking water
- Strengthen the provision of oral health services delivery as part of the essential health services package that deliver universal health coverage
- Improve oral health worldwide by creating an oral health-friendly environment, reducing risk factors, strengthening a quality-assured oral health care system and raising public awareness of the needs and benefits of a good dentition and a healthy mouth

Chairperson,

Malawi is happy to report that we have already started to address and implement some of the issues raised in the resolution. For your information chairperson, Malawi received an award for displaying exceptional national leadership for NCDs from the United Nations Interagency Task Force for the prevention and control of NCDs.

The Ministry of Health has prioritized oral and dental health services in the implementation of Health Sector Strategic Plan II (HSSP II) 2017 -2022 by including management of mild and severe

tooth pain, tooth filling and extractions for primary and secondary level care.

We are currently developing an Oral health policy and a strategic plan to provide the direction and proper framework for improving oral health and delivery of oral and dental services in the country with a view to achieving oral health as part of the Universal Coverage and Non communicable disease agenda. WHO Resolution urges Member States, taking into account their national circumstances:

Recently established a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree programme at the College of Medicine to enable Malawi to train its own cadre of Dental surgeons and Dentists .

Plans are underway for a National Oral Health Survey for 6-12 year olds whose results will be used to plan a programme for oral health promotion and prevention.

We continue to work with other stakeholders, international and local NGOs to provide e-learning, treatment as well as undertaking research to provide equitable oral health care to difficult to reach communities.

Chairperson

Our main concern is mainly on health care financing and financing of oral health care is no exception

In conclusion Malawi supports the Resolution on Oral Health 2021.

Thank you chairperson.