

## **The Future Starts Now: Enhancing Global Systems for Current and Future Generations**

Your Excellencies, Member State Representatives, Esteemed Colleagues, Fellow Advocates—All Protocols Observed.

I deliver this statement on behalf of Amref Health Africa, the largest indigenous health NGO in Africa and a proud member of the Health imPACT Coalition, representing over 300 organisations committed to advancing global health.

We commend this critical engagement with Civil Society on the margins of the Summit of the Future and appreciate the opportunity to address you today. As a community-centered organisation, Amref operates at the intersection of health and prosperity in Africa. We strongly assert that to enhance global systems, we must take bold, urgent action now. We must accelerate investments that prioritise and protect the health, security, and well-being of current generations—without compromising the future of our youth. This is the only path to sustainable progress and shared prosperity for Africa and the world.

The latest draft of the Pact provides a solid foundation for development. However, it is time for Member States to demonstrate their commitment through tangible actions and transformative outcomes that align with the post-2030 agenda. We call on all Member States to respond urgently to the current and emerging health threats that jeopardise our present and future. Healthy communities are the backbone of healthy economies.

Investing in the health sector is not just a moral imperative—it is an economic one. For Africa, these investments must focus on:

1. **Accelerated Investment in Universal Health Care:** Our health systems must be people-centered, community-led, and equitable. The COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Mpox outbreak have taught us valuable lessons that demand immediate action and reform.
2. **Targeted Investment in Health System Resilience:** This means strengthening the financial, structural, and human capital capacities of our health systems. We must transform health financing infrastructures to deliver accessible, quality care for all.
3. **Addressing the Social and Economic Determinants of Health:** We must tackle economic instability, environmental and climate challenges, food insecurity, and deep-rooted social inequities—especially gender inequality, marginalisation, and exclusion. This requires multi-sectoral, integrated actions and shared decision-making that prioritise youth and future generations.

**In Conclusion:** Everything is interconnected. To create a resilient global system, we must address it as such.

**At a time when trust in global cooperation is at an all-time low, the world is watching. It's time to act. The future starts now.**

Thank you

***Vania Kibui – the Regional Policy Advocacy & Capacity Strengthening Specialist.***