

RC75 Statement from Amref Health Africa

Agenda 8: Accelerating progress in the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents by transforming health systems in the African Region

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

We welcome the discussion on Agenda item eight; however, it is noted with concern that progress towards this ambition has been limited for many, and inequity remains a stark reality for most. Progress begins by ensuring that services are accessible and of sufficient quality at the point of need by adopting a lens of primary healthcare. It is especially critical to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalised are at the core of this approach.

We urge member states to prioritise three approaches to transform and reorient health systems towards primary healthcare (PHC) to ensure that the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents is secured by:

- **Building on commitments made in the WHA78 resolution to strengthen health financing globally and eliminate financial barriers for women, children and adolescents to access life-saving interventions.**
- **Adopting a multi-sectoral approach to designing responsive systems and incentivising cross-sector collaboration. We support establishing joint planning and budgeting processes where multiple sectors share accountability for broader health determinants, as illustrated in health-in-all-policies.**
- **Ensuring that policy reform processes are embedded in the principles of meaningful community engagement, people-centred models of service delivery and social participation.**

Finally, we reiterate that PHC is not only the foundation of our health systems but is also a critical and foundational lever that will accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage.