

**ADDRESS OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, HONOURABLE  
KWAKU GYEMANG-MANU AT THE 2023 UNHLM ON TB IN  
NEW YORK**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Ghana is delighted to take the floor to contribute to the discussion on the fight against Tuberculosis. In Ghana, about thirty-five thousand (35,000) people fall ill every year, and forty-three persons lose their lives daily. Some progress has been made since the 2018 declaration. Ghana has combined a series of structured policies and activities supported by establishment of a ministerial office for resource mobilisation and direct monitoring of tuberculosis, malaria and HIV programmatic activities.

We are addressing the catastrophic cost of persons affected by TB with the formation of free health insurance, and additional GeneXpert and digital X-ray machines to aid diagnosis. The decentralised TB molecular platforms and TB human resource really supported the covid response during the pandemic. These district molecular platforms also served pandemic preparedness and other disease management. In return, we have leveraged the covid response for diagnostic equipment, especially digital X-rays, GeneXpert and development of integrated surveillance.

Chair, TB is preventable, treatable and curable therefore rendering quality care to people living with TB through equitable access to rapid diagnostics, shorter oral treatment for infection and disease, increasing access to social protection and other innovations including digital tools for health.

- To make this a reality for the Ghanaian, we commit to mobilising and increasing domestic resources for diagnosing and treating people with TB, including children, people living with HIV, and provision of preventive therapy and a focus on high risk and vulnerable groups with newer diagnostics especially for children.
- We further commit to strengthen the notification of all people who diagnose with Tuberculosis by public, private and community base healthcare providers to national health information systems, facilitated by the expanded use of secure and confidential digital base surveillance with full respect for human rights in line with highest applicable standards and data privacy laws; civil registration and vital statistics registers to allow for tracking of the tuberculosis epidemic by improving real-time data collection, reporting and automation to inform and support evidence based decision making and strengthen accountability.
- We commit to ensure hundred percent of people living with TB have access to health and social benefit packages to avoid catastrophic cost of the TB disease for both people with the disease and their families.
- We commit to protect the rights of people affected by TB within the national TB response that is equitable, inclusive, gender sensitive, rights based and people centred. These will include action-oriented efforts within specific models of care to address stigma and discrimination, mental health and nutrition and overcoming barriers to accessing care and prevention with deepened civil society involvement.
- We are committed to translate the United Nations High-Level Meeting declarations into country level actions through a multi-sectoral accountability framework.

- We commit to promote the inclusion of TB into the curricular of medical schools, public health, nurses training, medical technology, nutrition, social work and other related areas of training.

In conclusion, Ghana is committed to achieve the goal of TB elimination by 2030 through sustained and adequate funding for TB services for the next seven (7) years. We shall drive multi-sectoral action and accountability using the whole of government approach to tackle the key drivers of the TB epidemic.