

10 January 2022

Ms. Susan Nakhumicha Wafula
Cabinet Secretary
Ministry Of Health
Afya House
Cathedral Road
P.O. Box 30016-00100
NAIROBI



Dear Ms. Susan Nakhumicha Wafula

SUPPORTING A WHA76 RESOLUTION ON HEALTH DATA GOVERNANCE

Transform Health Kenya Coalition, in line with [Transform Health Global](#), is a coalition of organizations and institutions working on health and human rights, working with key and affected populations, youth, women, and on digital health technologies, all of whom are committed to achieving Universal Health Coverage through the use of digital technologies and data.

As the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, health data has emerged as an essential tool for strengthening health systems and responding to future health challenges. However, national, regional and global rules to govern the collection and use of data have not kept pace with the growing potential for data to support better health and well-being, or the potential harms arising from data misuse.

As health systems and other parts of our lives have become increasingly digital, volumes of health data and health-related data continue to expand. How effectively we leverage this data in support of public health goals will depend on bold political leadership and action.

To harness the potential and manage the risks of health data sharing within and across borders, countries must work together to develop a set of common standards for the governance of health data. Such standards, articulated within a **global health data governance framework**, would guide and inform the development (and strengthening) of national health data governance legislation and regulation.

We urge KENYA to champion this issue at the upcoming WHO Executive Board meeting in January and World Health Assembly in May by ensuring that health data governance is on the agenda and sponsoring a World Health Assembly resolution mandating the WHO to lead a fully inclusive process to develop a global framework.

We invite KENYA to take the following key actions:

1. Sign onto this [Member State letter to WHO](#) requesting health data governance and the resolution to be on the agenda of the EB and WHA.
2. **Sponsor the enclosed [draft WHA resolution](#)** calling for a global health data governance framework and submit it to WHO, requesting that this is on the agenda of the 2023 WHO Executive Board and World health Assembly.
3. **Actively engage in Member state consultations on upcoming EB/WHA agendas** requesting the inclusion of an agenda item on health data governance, which includes the WHA resolution.
4. **152nd WHO Executive Board meeting (30 January - 7 February 2023):** Support an agenda item on health data governance, including a recommendation for a WHA resolution.
5. **76th World Health Assembly (21 - 30 May 2023):** Sponsor a resolution calling for WHO to develop an equity and human rights-based global health data governance framework through a fully inclusive process.

In your deliberations with WHO and other stakeholders, we also urge you to ensure that any future health data governance framework is aligned with principles of public health, equity and human rights. A new set of equity and human rights-based Health Data Governance Principles—endorsed by over 100 organisations—provide a starting point for the development of a global governance framework (available at <https://healthdatapinciples.org/>).

The attached resolution, drafted by Transform Health and reviewed by other experts, incorporates these principles. We hope that it will support your negotiations and provide a helpful starting point for a draft resolution and the development of a health data governance framework.

Thank you in advance for your leadership. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you further and are available to support you in advancing this agenda.

Sincerely,

Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV & AIDS (KELIN)
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On behalf of the Coalition

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