

WHS REGIONAL MEETING NAIROBI DECLARATION 2026

Reimagining Africa's Health Systems — From Commitment to Implementation

WHS Regional Meeting 2026 | Nairobi, Kenya | 27–29 April 2026

For presentation at the World Health Summit 2026 | Berlin, Germany | 11–13 October 2026

Hosted by Aga Khan University as a WHS Academic Alliance member, in partnership with the WHO AFRO, the Ministry of Health, Kenya and the Africa CDC

WHS ACADEMIC ALLIANCE • 2026

Preamble

We, the host and co-convenor of the WHS Regional Meeting 2026 and members of the WHS Academic Alliance, together with the institutions, policymakers, health professionals, researchers, innovators, communities, youth and development partners who participated in the **World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 in Nairobi**, affirm that Africa's health future must be shaped by African priorities, evidence, leadership and institutions, while strengthened through equitable global partnership.

Convened under the theme **“Reimagining Africa’s Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence,”** the WHS Regional Meeting Nairobi brought together more than 3,000 participants from over 80 countries, including Ministers of Health, policymakers, researchers, civil society, youth, private-sector leaders and global health institutions. The meeting was hosted by Aga Khan University, a member of the WHS Academic Alliance, in partnership with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa, the Ministry of Health of Kenya and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Nairobi meeting reinforced a shared imperative: **health systems must move from fragmented interventions and commitments to coherent, country-led and measurable implementation.**

The **Nairobi agenda needs to be brought to the global stage** as a contribution to the global health dialogue and call for a renewed partnership between African leadership and the global health community—grounded in mutual accountability, evidence, equity and shared responsibility.

Outcomes of the WHS Regional Meeting Nairobi

Throughout panel discussions, side-meetings and conversations among the many voices present, the WHS Regional Meeting Nairobi highlighted some of the most urgent topics facing global health and Africa’s health systems in particular:

African countries and institutions must be central authors of the policies, investments, research and innovations that shape Africa's health future. It is crucial to continue building the capabilities, institutions and partnerships necessary for countries and regions to make informed choices, withstand shocks and pursue their health priorities with greater agency.

Primary health care and universal health coverage are foundational to resilient health systems. Resilient, integrated and people-centered health systems require predictable, sustainable and strategically aligned investment both nationally and regionally. **Investment in health is a foundation for economic resilience, human capital and sustainable development.**

People are the foundation of every health system, and a sustainable health transformation requires meaningful participation by the people and communities they serve. From **youth leadership, patient and community voices** in health-system design, to inclusive approaches to women, adolescents, children and other populations experiencing health inequities, inclusion must move **beyond consultation toward meaningful partnership and shared accountability**.

The WHS Regional Meeting Nairobi also highlighted the significance of the **digital transformation, data and artificial intelligence** as important enablers of stronger health systems. The transformation should reduce—not deepen—existing inequities.

Finally, the meeting affirmed that **health security is a shared responsibility extending beyond national borders**. Africa's health security must be built through preparedness before crises, coordinated action during crises, and sustained investment between crises.

From Commitment to Implementation

The WHS Regional Meeting Nairobi highlighted that the next phase after the convening must move from commitment to **implementation, scale, measurable impact, and accountability**.

Advancing the Nairobi outcomes toward the World Health Summit 2026 in Berlin and beyond will require health-system transformation that is rooted in national and regional priorities and ownership, supported by regional cooperation, and informed by strong evidence and local knowledge. Successful innovations should be integrated and scaled through health systems rather than remain isolated projects, while commitments should be accommodated by clear objectives, responsible actors, and mechanisms to monitor progress. Throughout, **equity** must remain central, ensuring that health gains reach the populations and communities facing the greatest barriers.

A Call from Nairobi to Berlin to the World

As the WHS Regional Meeting Nairobi hosts and co-conveners bring this Declaration to the **World Health Summit 2026 in Berlin**, we call upon:

Governments and regional institutions to strengthen country-led and regionally coordinated action on health-system transformation.

African institutions and leaders to continue advancing African ownership, innovation, research, manufacturing and leadership in health.

Global health institutions and development partners to align partnerships and financing with country priorities and support stronger, more sustainable systems.

Academia and research institutions to generate and translate evidence into policy and practice, strengthen African research capacity, and support innovation that responds to real-world needs.

The private sector and innovators to invest responsibly in solutions that strengthen health systems, expand access and advance equitable outcomes.

Civil society, communities and young people to participate in shaping, implementing and holding health systems accountable.

The Nairobi–Berlin Commitment

The Nairobi Regional Meeting was not an endpoint, but a platform for continued action.

We therefore commit to carrying the priorities articulated in Nairobi into the global health dialogue in Berlin and beyond.

We call for a global health architecture in which **Africa is not only a recipient of solutions, but a co-creator, co-investor, co-producer and co-author of the health agenda.**

We recognise that health sovereignty and global solidarity are complementary: stronger national and regional capabilities can strengthen collective global health security, while equitable international partnerships can accelerate locally led transformation.

The WHS Academic Alliance stands ready to support this transition through evidence, education, research, innovation, collaboration and sustained engagement across regions and disciplines.

From Nairobi to Berlin — from commitment to implementation.

WHS ACADEMIC ALLIANCE 2026



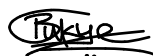
Dr. Jean Kaseya
Director General, Africa CDC



Dr Mohamed Yakub Janabi
Regional Director for Africa, WHO



Axel R. Pries
President, World Health Summit
On behalf of the WHS Academic Alliance



[Lukoye Atwoli \(Oct 10, 2026 11:18:24 GMT+2\)](#)

Lukoye Atwoli
Professor and Dean & Deputy Director
Medical College East Africa & Brain and
Mind Institute, The Aga Khan University
On behalf of the WHS Academic Alliance