



FEDERATION OF AFRICAN MEDICAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS (FAMSA)

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FAMSA Attends the 73rd WHO Regional Committee for Africa (73RC)

As a recognised WHO non-state actor, FAMSA was invited to attend the 73rd session of the Regional Committee (RC73) from 28th August to 1st September 2023 in Gaborone, Botswana.



....towards improvement of health in Africa.

The Federation of African Medical Students' Associations (FAMSA) was privileged to participate in the 73rd WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Botswana, held from 28 August to 1 September 2023 at the Gaborone International Conference Centre (GICC)



FAMSA was represented by three delegates led by President Banturaki Davis, (MUMSA, Uganda) Monicah Kitonga (MSAMU, Kenya), and Abdulhammed Babatunde (UIMSA, Nigeria)

The 73rd Regional Committee was another annual opportunity for FAMSA as a medical student-led, non-state actor to represent medical students' views on the priorities of WHO/AFRO as she reflects on the progress, challenges, and public health priorities across 47 Member States of the WHO African Region.

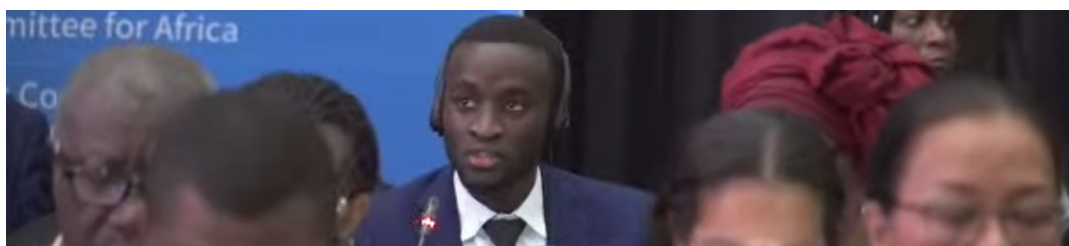
This was a special occasion as WHO marks **75 years** of existence as a leading health organization in the world and in Africa this year.

The Agenda was themed under the pillars;

- One Billion more people benefit from Universal Health Coverage,
- One Billion more people enjoying better health and well being
- More effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries



Presentation Highlights



FAMSA had an opportunity to present 5 policy statements under 5 agenda items, in which we advocated for the need for;

- Adaptable and resilient healthcare systems, to ensure equitable access to healthcare. Foster effective risk communication through vulnerability assessment and capacity building in order to create a resilient African region that can effectively respond to health emergencies, mitigate risks, and achieve sustainable development goals.
- Establishment of comprehensive national data collection and storage systems that could serve as repositories of reliable information to inform policies and decisions regarding the health workforce towards implementation of the Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery (2021-25)
- Need to harness the youthful health population in order to increase digital penetrations to ensure equitable access to eHealth interventions to promote universal health coverage in all member states.
- Strengthening of member states' national commitments and prioritisation of nutrition within respective national development agendas, to improve nutrition outcomes and overall development of African states.

Our oral policy statements in addition to our other written statements underscored FAMSA's commitment to advancing healthcare in Africa and promoting meaningful engagement with regional health authorities.

Impact

FAMSA looks forward to the adoption and alignment of her goals and strategies to the discussions pertaining to the conference, in order to better contribute towards achieving a more sustainable **“Health for All”** for Africa

Networking and Collaborations



FAMSA President Banturaki Davis with the WHO Regional Director Dr. Matshidiso Moeti

During the conference, FAMSA was able to engage in networking activities. Notably, the Regional Director, Dr. Matshidiso expressed a strong interest in collaborating with medical students. FAMSA is eager to pursue this collaboration, recognizing its potential to greatly benefit medical students in their efforts to make meaningful contributions to their careers and communities across Africa

FAMSA also welcomed the South-South Collaboration discussion, An initiative that holds a promise of enhancing and strategically advancing medical students as well as health workers' exchange programs, to more enriching experiences, and promoting valuable cross-regional partnerships.

Next Steps

FAMSA is set to organize webinars designed to disseminate pertinent insights and implications arising from the WHO Regional meeting. These webinars will feature presentations on the principal resolutions and outcomes derived from both the 75th WHO Assembly and the 73rd Regional Committee for Africa. We hope this will equip medical students with substantial knowledge as prospective healthcare workforce for the African continent to advance public health and address global health challenges.

Acknowledgment

We would like to recognise contributions from,

FAMSA policy training team led by Ms. Cinnamon Nyagaka and trainees for the wonderful effort and work towards working up with policy statements,

Seed Global Health Uganda, for the support towards attending the conference.



References

<https://www.afro.who.int>

<https://www.youtube.com/live/gHKmrVh8nt8?si=wXZtQgScPDSGd-VR>

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