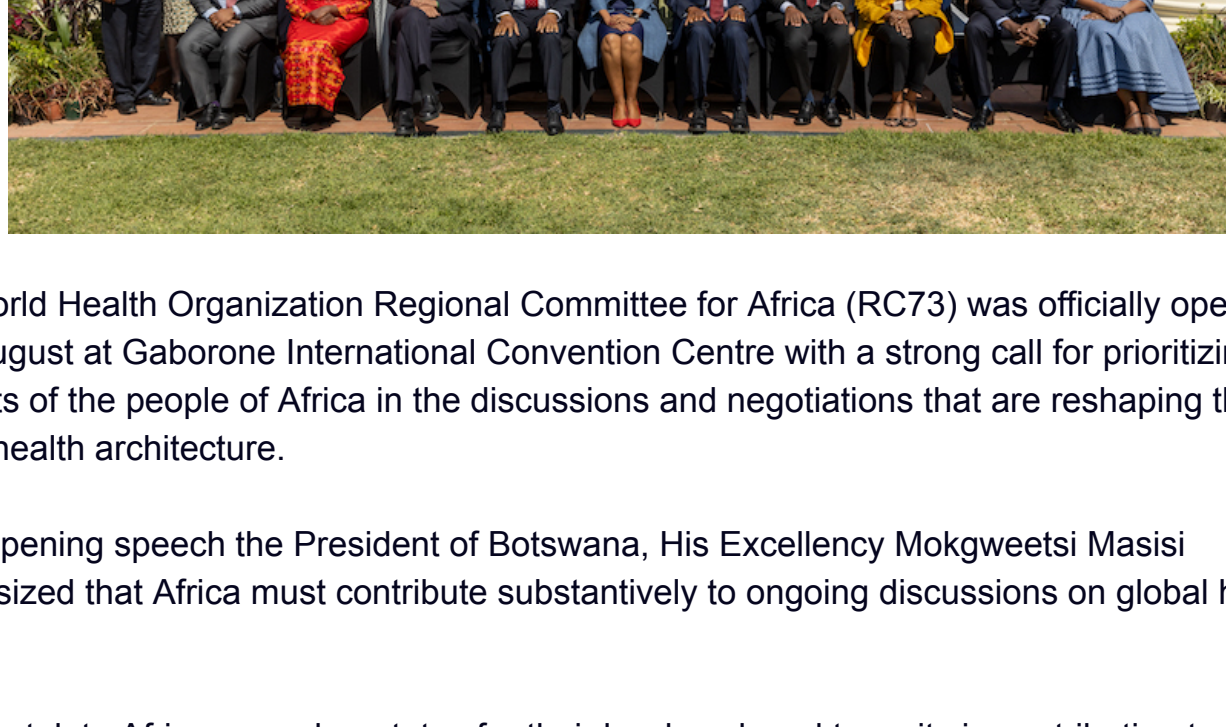


RC73 Journal English - Day 2

29 August 2023



Africa calls for equity in reshaping global Health Policies

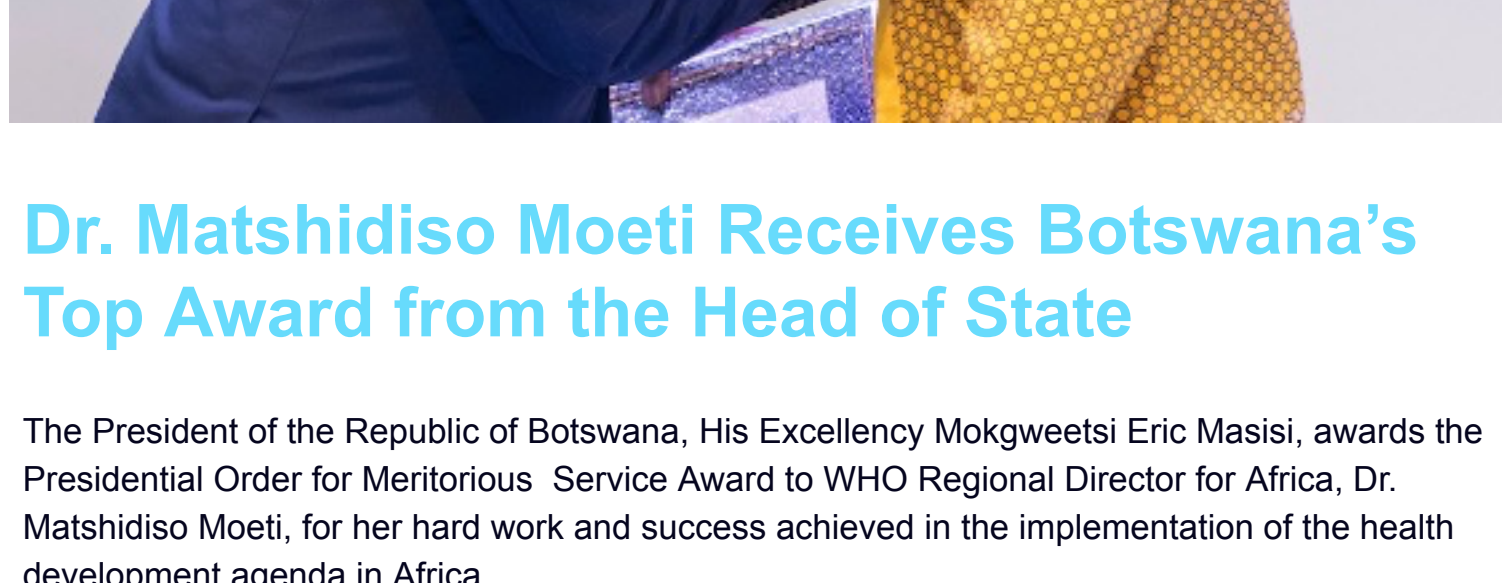


The World Health Organization Regional Committee for Africa (RC73) was officially opened on 28th August at Gaborone International Convention Centre with a strong call for prioritizing the interests of the people of Africa in the discussions and negotiations that are reshaping the global health architecture.

In his opening speech the President of Botswana, His Excellency Mokgweetsi Masisi emphasized that Africa must contribute substantively to ongoing discussions on global health policy.

"I congratulate African member states for their hard work and tenacity in contributing to the global norm-setting discussions which have a meaningful and sustainable impact on the trajectory of the health situation globally and in the region," he said.

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Dr. Matshidiso Moeti Receives Botswana's Top Award from the Head of State

The President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi, awards the Presidential Order for Meritorious Service Award to WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, for her hard work and success achieved in the implementation of the health development agenda in Africa.

Dr. Moeti received the award at the opening ceremony of the 73rd WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Gaborone on 28th August, 2023. This honor is awarded the President to personalities and institutions whose contribution have stood out in the spheres of socioeconomic development.

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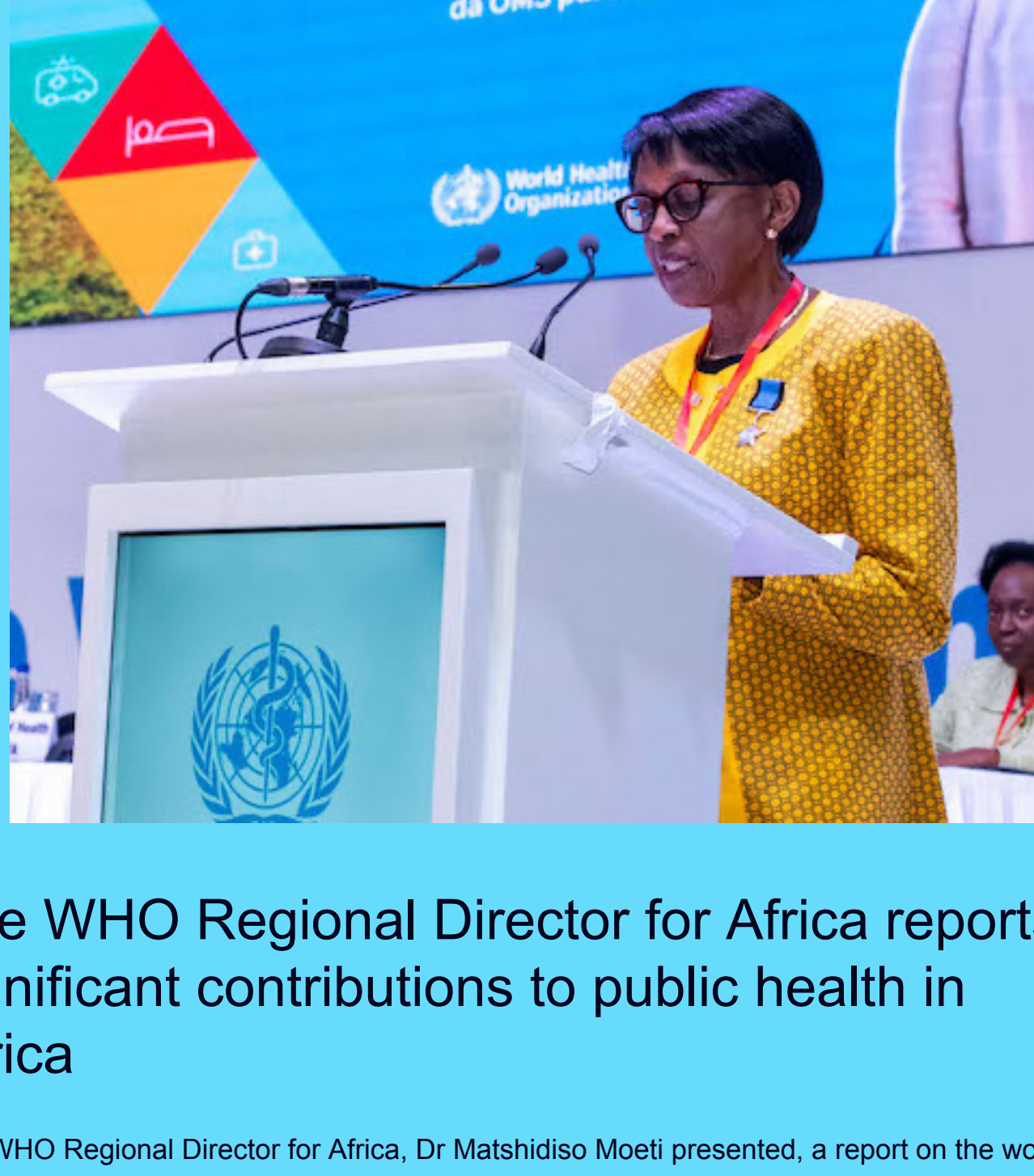
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Dr Edwin Dikoloti, Minister of Health and Welfare of Botswana elected RC 73 Chair

The WHO Regional Committee for Africa unanimously elected the Minister of Health of Botswana, the Honorable Dr. Edwin Dikoloti, Chairman of RC 73. Delegates also adopted the Special Procedures to regulate the conduct of the hybrid session of the Seventy-third Regional Committee for Africa. Elections held on the first day of RC73 also saw the Honorable Dr Austin Demby, Minister of Health and Sanitation of Sierra Leone and the Honorable Dr Pierre Somse, Minister of Health and the Population of the Central African Republic, to be respectively elected as 1st and 2nd vice-presidents of RC73.

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The WHO Regional Director for Africa reports significant contributions to public health in Africa

The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti presented, a report on the work of WHO in the African Region between July 2022 and June 2023 at the ongoing seventy-third session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC73).

Presenting the report, Dr Moeti highlighted the key achievements of WHO AFRO in the areas of health security and emergencies, health systems strengthening, Universal Health Coverage (UHC), prevention and control of communicable and noncommunicable diseases, health and well-being and environmental surveillance systems against polio.

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The delegates unanimously adopt the report of the Programme Subcommittee

Delegates to the 73rd Session of the WHO Regional Committee welcomed unanimously the report of the Chairman of the Program Subcommittee (PSC) Ms Petronella Masabane from Namibia. The PSC members reviewed over a number of documents on multiple topics, including the framework for implementing nursing and midwifery, (2021–2025), addressing nursing and midwifery, with an emphasis on practice optimization, while addressing challenges linked to budget constraints and migration management. The PSC recommended the standardization of the curricula for nursing and midwifery, urging Member States to lower entrance barriers, invest in health systems, and embrace a "One Health" strategy.

The Framework for sustaining resilient health systems to achieve universal health coverage and promote health security, (2023-2030) in the WHO African Region highlighted the impact of health emergencies on health systems and economies, the stalled progress towards SDG targets and threats to health security. The PSC called for equitable investment and efficient healthcare-based systems from member states.

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Launching a new partnership with the Susan Thompson Buffet Foundation (STBF) to advance sexual and reproductive health in WHO Africa Region

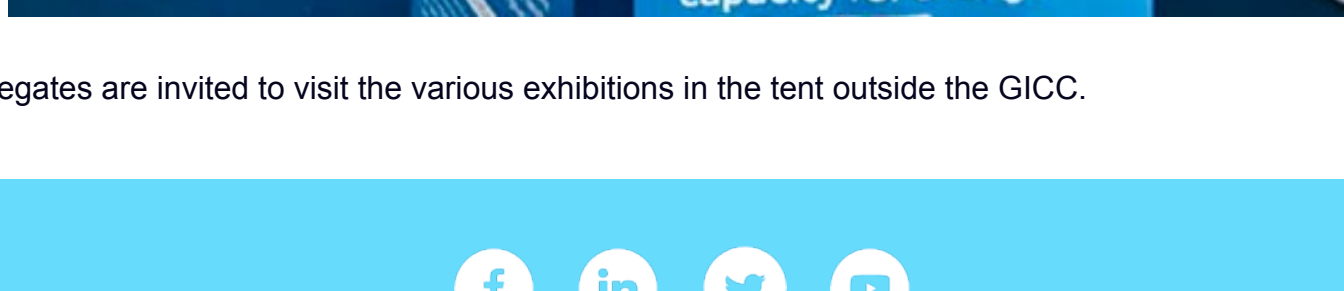
Governments across Africa have made great efforts to advance universal health coverage (UHC) and to reduce maternal mortality in recent years, however, significant reproductive and maternal health challenges remain across the continent. Two-thirds of global maternal deaths still occur in Africa.

The Susan Thompson Buffet Foundation (STBF) aims to help governments to strengthen their health systems to expand access to reproductive and maternal health services with the ultimate goal of increasing access to contraception and safe abortion, ending preventable maternal deaths, and reducing maternal mortality. To do so, STBF partners with Ministries of Health and multilaterals such as the World Health Organization (WHO), to support government-led approaches to build resilient and sustainable health systems that are equipped to deliver high-quality, equitable SRHR services that are integrated within primary health care.

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RC73 Exhibition



Delegates are invited to visit the various exhibitions in the tent outside the GICC.