



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

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Lomé, Togo, 22–26 August 2022

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TOGO BY THE WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA, LOMÉ, REPUBLIC OF
TOGO, 22 AUGUST 2022**

Your Excellency President Gnassingbe, thank you once again for your hospitality, and your leadership.

For centuries, the people of Togo have lived and died with the ever-present threat of neglected tropical diseases.

But with the support of partners, you have fought back, and you have prevailed.

The elimination of dracunculiasis, lymphatic filariasis, human African trypanosomiasis and trachoma is an outstanding achievement, and a gift not only for the people of Togo today, but for generations to come.

It is particularly noteworthy that the Republic of Togo continued the efforts required to eliminate human African trypanosomiasis in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of course, there are still other neglected tropical diseases, and many other health challenges, that continue to afflict your people.

So I encourage you, Mr President, to show the same leadership in confronting those challenges as you have in ridding your country of these four diseases.

I am also counting on you to continue your mobilization, advocacy and commitment to end neglected tropical diseases in all countries.

On the occasion of the Seventy-second session of the Regional Committee for Africa, it is therefore my great pleasure to present you, Your Excellency, President Faure Gnassingbé, with a certificate recognizing your country's outstanding achievement in eliminating dracunculiasis, lymphatic filariasis, human African trypanosomiasis and trachoma.

My sister, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the Regional Director for Africa, will also present you with a plaque on behalf of all international partners within the framework of Uniting to Combat NTDs.