

SESSION 7: CLOSING SESSION

IANPHI

ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 7-8, 2024 | KIGALI, RWANDA

HOSTED BY



Prof. Claude Muvunyi,
Director General, RBC,
Rwanda

PRESENTATION OF THE KIGALI STATEMENT



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTES COMMIT TO ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH, RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

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A statement from the IANPHI Annual Meeting hosted by the
Rwanda Biomedical Center
(‘Kigali Statement’)

Between February 7 and February 8, 2024, National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) from around the world met in Kigali, Rwanda, to discuss how to strengthen the resilience of health systems and communities to the growing threat of disease, health inequity, climate and environmental change, and other hazards to health.

The world is at an important decision point: following the COVID-19 pandemic, political commitment and funding were mobilized to strengthen health security and build back better. We now have an opportunity to draw on these resources, and on the lessons learned from the pandemic, to continue to advance the public's health. NPHIs in many countries are at the forefront of action to mitigate the impact of current and future threats to health as well as improving population health. The Kigali Meeting recognized the importance of collaboration and action to strengthen the capacity of all health systems to deliver the [Essential Public Health Functions \(EPHFs\)](#) – a core set of capabilities defined and published jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and IANPHI. The EPHFs are considered the foundation for public health action that all countries should strive to deliver.

In his opening address, Rwanda's Minister of Health, Dr Sabin Nsanzimana, asked the meeting to reflect on the benefits realized during the COVID-19 pandemic from collaboration between NPHIs, stating that: *"United in purpose, NPHIs commit to advancing public health, resilience, and sustainability. This is a testament to our collective resolve in building a healthier, more resilient world."*

Global understanding of the importance of public health increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic and with-it, recognition of the role that NPHIs can play in strengthening resilience.

The IANPHI Annual Meeting hosted by the Rwanda Biomedical Centre had strong representation from across Africa. The African Union, through the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Strategic Plan 2023-2027, has made strengthening NPHIs a priority. IANPHI Members, including both NPHIs and Regional Centres for Disease Control, have identified peer-to-peer support and collaboration between National Public Health Institutes and Ministries of Health as central to the ambition to deliver the EPHFs.

The role that NPHIs can play in the management of emergency preparedness and response and their leadership in support of the development of integrated health systems and strengthened surveillance was illustrated through the case studies and achievements presented at the meeting. The example of African strategic leadership in prioritizing NPHIs as key to addressing future threats, including the growing burden of non-communicable diseases and their prevention advances the public health agenda IANPHI is committed to supporting globally.

The message of WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to the conference highlighted the importance of the [partnership between WHO and IANPHI](#), which was signed in October 2022. Dr. Tedros stated that *"To achieve universal health coverage and health security around the world, we must coordinate our efforts to support all countries in building the public health capacities needed to protect and promote health and achieve equitable access to services"*. He said that *"The work of IANPHI and its member institutions and the impactful partnerships they forge supports our shared ambition of sustainable and resilient health systems that can deliver Health for All."*

The Kigali Meeting recognized specifically the importance of multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration to support strengthening the capacity of all health systems to deliver the EPHFs, which should be considered NPHIs' core functions.

We, the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), gathered in the city of Kigali for the IANPHI Annual Meeting held on February 7-8, 2024, affirm that:

- NPHIs are a vital resource to build resilient and sustainable health systems. To achieve this, National Public Health Institutes need to have the confidence and trust of politicians, the public and civil society organizations. They need scientific independence to generate, interpret and present the evidence base essential for effective decision-making and actions.
- Advances in technology present important opportunities to improve health and build resilience and sustainability. However, the costs and benefits of technologies need to be assessed and any risks, including the potential to increase global inequity through their use, need to be anticipated and mitigated. The role of public health institutes in assessing the potential benefits and risks of vaccines, pharmaceuticals, behavioral interventions and technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, is critical to the effective, efficient, economic and equitable use of these innovations.
- All countries need to be able to deliver the full range of [EPHFs](#). This requires a clear understanding of the institutional and workforce capacity and of the skills and competencies needed for their delivery. IANPHI is committed to working with WHO to support countries to map and measure their workforce and institutional capabilities and to develop partnerships

with the public health schools and academic institutions responsible for the development of public health skills and competencies across the health, public health and emergency workforces.

- Recognizing the importance of building resilient and sustainable health systems, IANPHI commits to work in collaboration with Ministries of Health and Partners in Member countries and Regional and Global Organizations in building capacity and strengthening the Primary Health Care systems to support prevention, detection and response to health emergencies to ensure universal health coverage and health security for all.
- Recognizing the evolution of the global architecture to support future pandemic response, IANPHI Members are committed to strengthening surveillance systems to improve prevention, detection and response to all health threats. IANPHI is committed to strengthening the partnerships needed to support collaborative surveillance, emergency management and resilience and recovery from crises.
- Acknowledging the important role of communities and increasing vulnerability to health threats, IANPHI is committed to supporting the promotion of health, recognizing that both political commitment and the active engagement of individuals and communities in protecting and improving the environment and wider health determinants which shape and determine health, will be of critical importance to long term health resilience and sustainability. This ambitious agenda requires greater collaboration between sectors at country level and between communities, governments and private sector agencies at national, regional and global levels.

- Recognizing the opportunities created by new funding mechanisms and networks, such as the Pandemic Fund and the International Pathogen Surveillance Network, as well as efforts to develop greater emergency response capacity, IANPHI is committed to supporting NPHIs actively engaged in the evolving global health architecture to help shape and realize action to 'build back better' resilient health systems.

Why we are committed to action

Many IANPHI Member Countries have suffered from the impact of climate and environmental change over the past year, with extreme weather events and resulting migratory pressures further stretching limited public health capacity. Many IANPHI Members are playing a key role in response to the huge impact of conflict on individuals, communities and populations, including their access to health care. Active collaboration between IANPHI Members to bolster capacity and provide mutual support during times of crisis remains a central principle of IANPHI.

The Kigali meeting reaffirmed the [Stockholm Statement](#), endorsing the view that NPHIs bring critical support at country level in the response to crises affecting health. With humanity facing multiple simultaneous emergencies, the need for collaboration between countries, for work in partnerships and for peer-to-peer support between NPHIs has never been more urgent.

Adopted on February 8, 2024 in Kigali by the IANPHI Executive Board on behalf of the IANPHI Members.

Prof. Duncan Selbie, IANPHI President, founding Chief Executive of Public Health England, & Chief Adviser, Public Health Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Prof. Meerjady Sabrina Flora, IANPHI Vice-President, Director, Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control & Research, Bangladesh

Prof. André van der Zande, IANPHI Immediate Past President, former Director, National Institute for Public Health & the Environment, The Netherlands

Dr. Juan Ángel Rivera Dommarco, former Director, National Institute of Public Health, Mexico

Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Prof. Geneviève Chêne, former Chief Executive, Santé publique France (the French Public Health Agency)

Prof. Hongbing Shen, Director General, China Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China

Dr. Yanaris Lopez Almaguer, General Director, "Pedro Kourí" Institute of Tropical Medicine (IPK), Cuba

Dr. Abdullah Al Gwizani, Chief Executive, Public Health Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Prof. Lars Schaade, President, Robert Koch Institute (RKI), Germany

Dr. Eduardo Samo Gudo, Director General of the National Institute of Health, Mozambique

Dr. Mesay Hailu Dangisso, Director General, Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Ethiopia

Dr. Tracey Cooper, Chief Executive, Public Health Wales, United Kingdom



Dr. Sofia Viegas,
Deputy Director, National
Institute of Health, Mozambique

PRESENTATION OF THE HOST OF THE 2025 IANPHI ANNUAL MEETING



Reunião Anual da IANPHI Maputo 2025

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CONCLUSION OF THE IANPHI ANNUAL MEETING