

The Seventy-Fifth Session of the Regional Committee for Africa

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage; Agenda Item 8 - Accelerating progress in the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents by transforming health systems in the African Region.

The International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research and the FDI World Dental Federation, representing over 10,000 researchers and 1 million dentists worldwide, welcome the focus on transforming health systems to advance health and well-being.

Oral diseases affect every stage of life and are linked to adverse birth outcomes, impaired nutrition, speech, and learning, and the devastating toll of noma, are all largely preventable yet often excluded from maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health agendas.

The WHO Global Oral Health Action Plan and the Bangkok Declaration calls for embedding oral health across health policies and life-course programs. We urge Member States to: integrate oral health into antenatal, postnatal, and school health services; ensure equitable access to fluoride; strengthen oral health literacy for women and caregivers; and align oral health with nutrition programs, including reducing free sugars consumption in children.

Thank you.

Duration: 1 min 3 secs.

142 words, 850 characters.