

THE ACCRA RESET

The road to African health
sovereignty in a reimagined global
health governance architecture



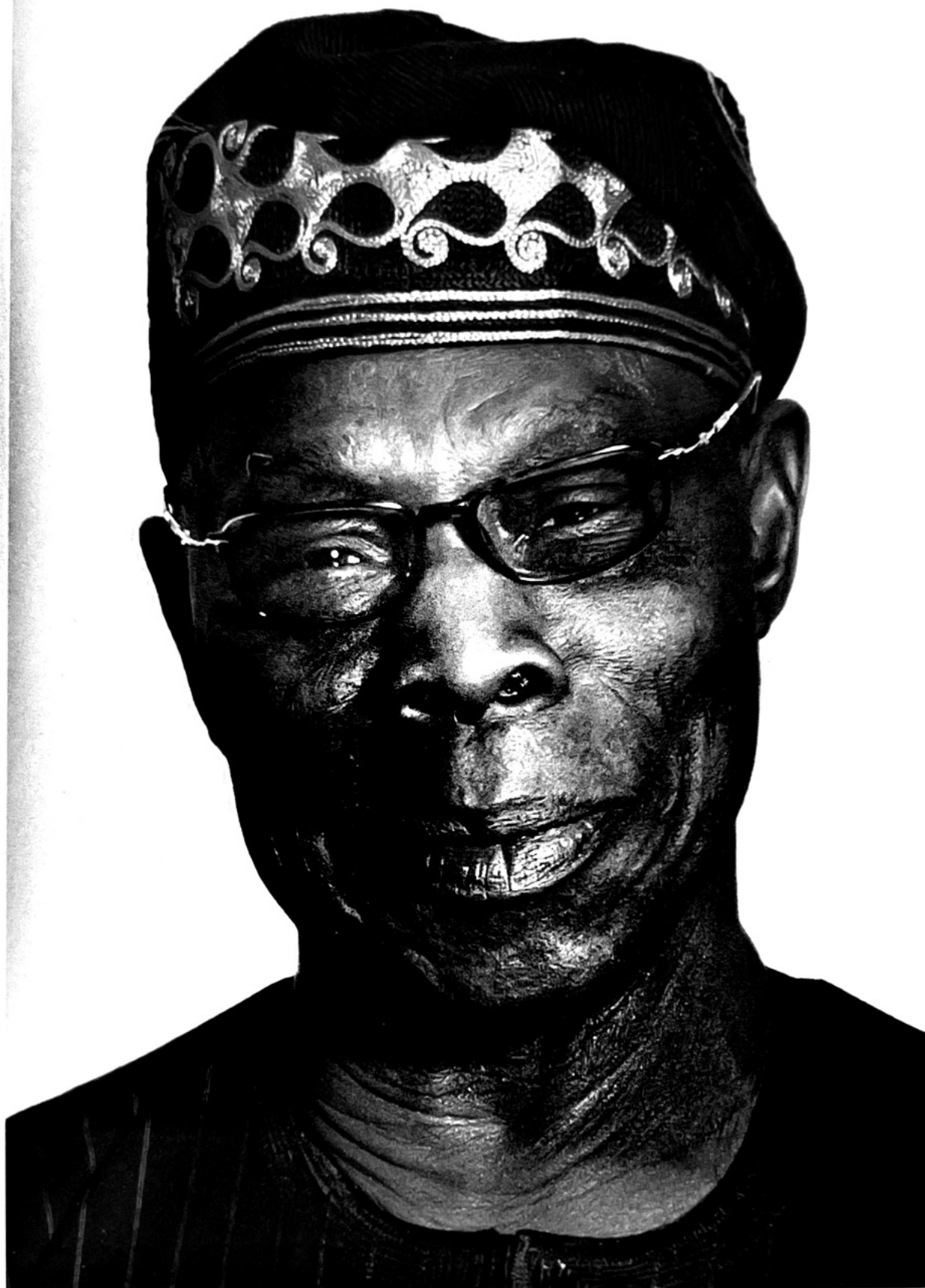
Accra, Ghana
5 August 2025



HE JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA



HE NAANA JANE OPOKU-AGYEMANG, PHD, FGA
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA



H.E. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organisation.



H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission



H.E. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Former President of the Republic of Mauritius



H.E. Ellen Eugenia Johnson Sirleaf, Former President of Liberia.



Rt Hon. Gordon Brown, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom



Hon. Professor Muhammad Ali Pate, Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Nigeria

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The organizers of the Africa Health Sovereignty Summit express their deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the gathering in Accra.

Thanks go to the Government of Ghana and H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana, for hosting the Summit and providing leadership to advance the Accra Reset agenda.

Special recognition is extended to former leaders whose experience and vision enriched the proceedings: H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, H.E. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, and Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown.

Acknowledgement is also given to Heads of State and Ministers of Health and Finance who participated, demonstrating political leadership and ownership of Africa's health sovereignty agenda.

Recognition is extended also to continental institutions—including the African Union, Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Development Bank—which added political weight and legitimacy to the process.

We appreciate the contributions of multilateral and bilateral partners, as well as philanthropic foundations and international nongovernmental organizations who enriched the deliberations.

Deep appreciation goes to civil society leaders, youth advocates, academics and private sector representatives for ensuring that the Summit was people-centered and inclusive.

We also extend our thanks to the distinguished speakers, moderators and masters of ceremony of the Summit, whose contributions shaped the debate and the Accra Reset vision. We are grateful to the partners who generously funded and supported the organization of the Summit, including Access Bank, Rockefeller Foundation, the Global Fund and the African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Finally, we acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Summit Secretariat, the technical drafting team, operations team, rapporteurs and volunteers who coordinated logistics, documentation and communication to make the Summit a success.



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Africa Health Sovereignty Summit marked a turning point for health in Africa. Emerging from a recognition that the prevailing global health order no longer serves the continent's aspirations, the Summit was aimed at setting in motion a process that will reassert Africa's health sovereignty.

Held in Accra, Ghana, on 5 August 2025, the gathering brought together sitting and former Heads of State, national ministers, leaders of continental institutions and representatives of multilateral entities, civil society, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and academia (Annexes 6.1 & 6.2).

The meeting agreed that Africa must move from aid dependency to self-determination and fleshed out a process for reimagining a global health governance architecture in which Africa shares power and accountability. Participants affirmed principles and endorsed action points that laid a basis for translating the Summit deliberations into a substantive roadmap. Key among them were the imperative of building health sovereignty in Africa; forging partnerships that complement sovereignty; the importance of continental institutions; using opportunities to unlock domestic investments in health; and having governance systems that safeguard inclusivity, solidarity and accountability.



The Summit culminated in the adoption of the Accra Communiqué (Annex 6.3), which positioned African health sovereignty as a political project and an economic and security imperative. Linking health to investment, resilience and dignity, the Communiqué expresses a continental commitment to build health sovereignty as a foundation for economic growth, societal well-being and sustainability.

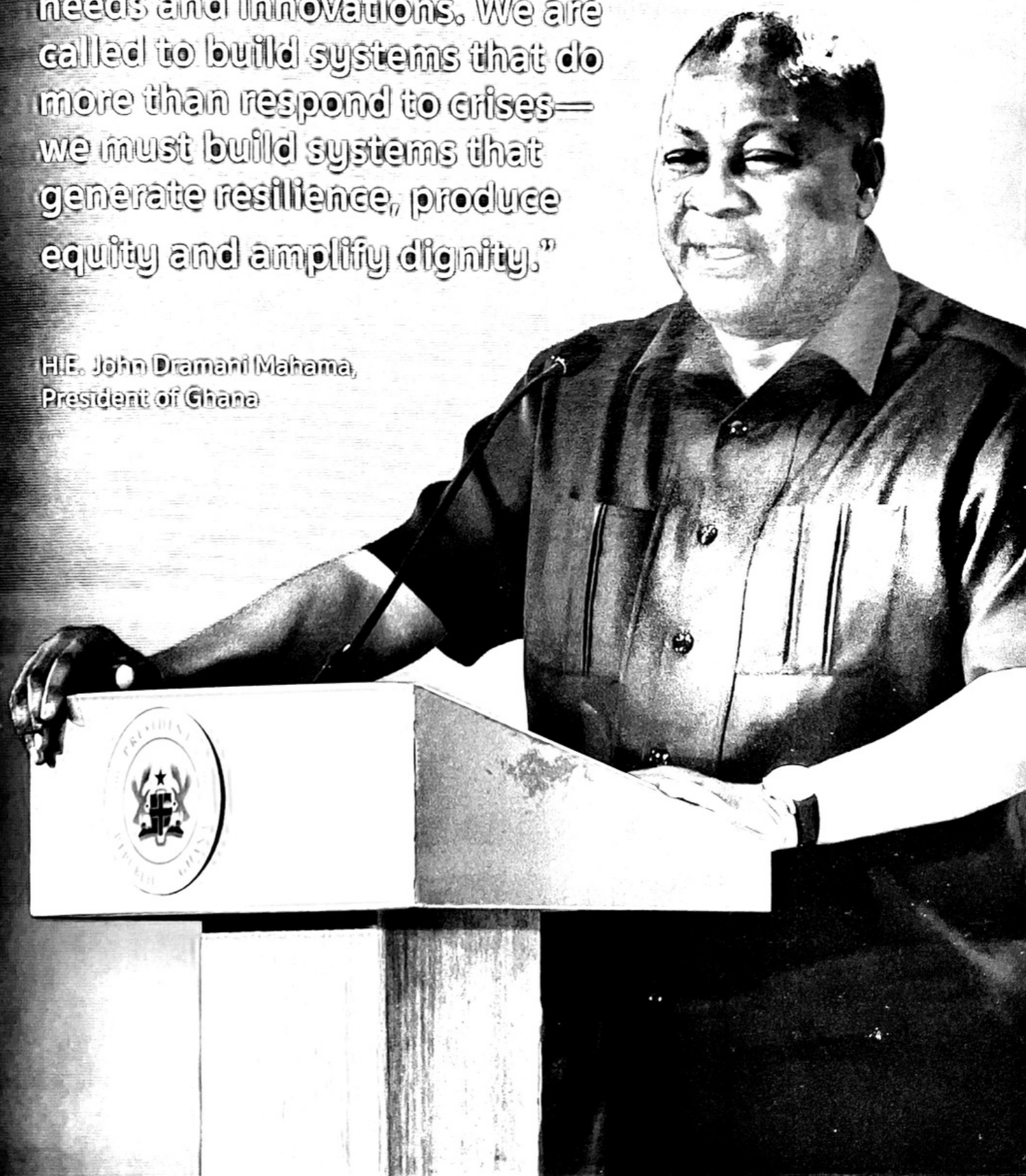
Also adopted at the Summit was the Accra Reset Roadmap, which translates the deliberations and commitments into a delivery plan, with clear milestones and deliverables spread across three phases. They include the creation of a Presidential High-Level Panel and the introduction of a new framework—the Scaling Up Sovereign Transition and Institutional Networks, or SUSTAIN, Framework—which will serve as an African-owned tool to guide transitions from aid dependency to resilient, domestically anchored health systems.

The Accra Reset makes clear Africa's resolve to lead, own and sustain health systems that deliver dignity, resilience and prosperity.

“

We are called to redesign the architecture that has, for too long, excluded Africa's voices, needs and innovations. We are called to build systems that do more than respond to crises—we must build systems that generate resilience, produce equity and amplify dignity.”

H.E. John Dramani Mahama,
President of Ghana



2. THE ACCRA INITIATIVE: CONTEXT AND SALIENCE

Leaders from across Africa and beyond gathered in Accra, Ghana, on 5 August 2025 for the Africa Health Sovereignty Summit, an historic meeting which marked a turning point for public health in Africa.

The Accra Initiative—the Summit and the deliberations leading up to it—was aimed at developing a pathway for reasserting Africa's health sovereignty. This would entail reimagining a global health governance architecture in which Africa is not a passive participant but a co-architect with shared power and accountability.

The Summit brought together sitting and former Heads of State, Ministers of Health and Finance, leaders of continental institutions (including the African Union and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention) and representatives of multilateral organizations, civil society, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and academia.

Opening the Summit, H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana, reminded participants that the gathering had its origins in conversations among African leaders, civil society and partners who recognized that the prevailing global public health order no longer served the continent's aspirations. He explained that Ghana's decision to host the meeting sent a signal that Africa itself would take the lead in resetting those arrangements. Sovereignty began with agenda-setting, he said.

President Mahama linked this "reset" to Africa's legacy of health leadership—from the 2001 Abuja Declaration and the 2023 Lusaka Agenda to the creation of the Global Fund and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and African Union (AU) efforts to boost domestic health financing led by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), highlighted the urgency of this shift when he told the meeting that external health aid had decreased by 40% in two years. Sovereignty was central, President Mahama said: Africa had to move from aid dependency to having resilient and sovereign health systems.



**“Africa must be the convener,
not the invited. We must
define the path to our health
sovereignty, and this Summit is
the beginning.”**

H.E. John Dramani Mahama,
President of Ghana

3. EMERGING THEMES

3.1 Foundational Principles

At the core of the Accra Initiative lay the recognition that health sovereignty is the foundation for Africa's future health and development agenda. Africa must set its own priorities, mobilize its own resources and design its own systems. That requires a deliberate transition from aid dependency to self-determination. The Summit framed health sovereignty not only as a political ideal but as the practical means to secure resilience, equity and dignity for Africa's people.

President Mahama stressed that African nations have the right to "determine their health priorities, marshal their capacities and lead with their own vision." He reminded the meeting how, during the 2014 Ebola outbreak, Africa had demonstrated its capacity for unity and decisive regional action. He invited partners to build "an African health investment ecosystem that is purpose-driven, equity-powered, and sovereignty-anchored."

Driving home that point, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, emphasized that sovereignty must be matched with accountability and trust, stressing that political ownership comes with responsibility. In the same session, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria, underlined the urgency of breaking free from financial dependence and called for bold steps to achieve African-led financing solutions.

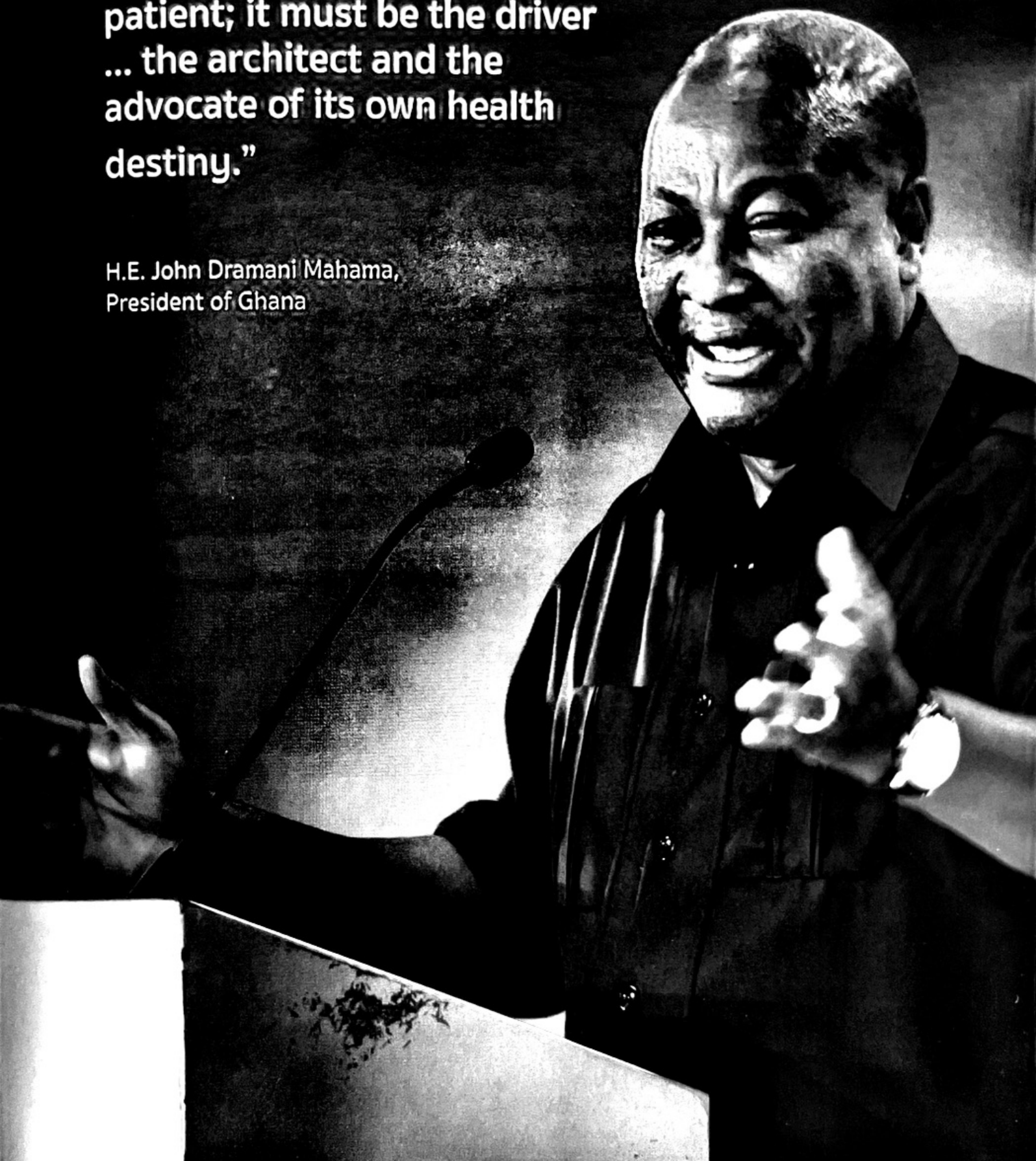
During the "Setting the stage" panel, participants reiterated the linked importance of sovereignty and agency: Africa's health future depended on decisions made by African leaders, not external actors, they said. During the ministerial panel, Ministers of Health and Finance stressed that sovereignty required deliberate domestic choices that align health priorities with national planning, fiscal policy, and long-term resilience strategies.

The Accra Communiqué, which emerged from the Summit, reflects this consensus by affirming health sovereignty as the foundation of the Accra Reset. It positions sovereignty as the cornerstone of four action points and endorses the principle that sovereignty is the indispensable starting point for reimagining and bringing about a new global health governance architecture.

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Africa must no longer be the patient; it must be the driver ... the architect and the advocate of its own health destiny.”

H.E. John Dramani Mahama,
President of Ghana



3.2 Investments and Assets

President Mahama reframed health as the engine of productivity and rejected as outdated narratives that picture health expenditure as a drain on national budgets. Participants reiterated that health must be seen not as a cost but as a strategic investment and a pillar of national security. Every dollar invested in resilient health systems yields multiple economic and social returns that reinforce productivity, stability and resilience, they said.

The Accra Initiative therefore positioned health as being crucial for inclusive growth and continental security. It emphasized that Africa's innovation and strategic assets—such as digital health, biotechnology, genomic surveillance, pharmaceutical and biomanufacturing capacity, and health data systems—are a basis for sovereignty. Those assets can and must be developed, owned and leveraged as sovereign capabilities.

President Mahama illustrated this by describing some of Ghana's reforms, including uncapping National Health Insurance Scheme financing to unlock billions of Ghanaian Cedis, creating the Ghana Medical Trust Fund for chronic diseases, and rolling out a primary health care programme that is rooted in the work of community health volunteers. These initiatives were examples of sovereignty in action, he said.

Former Nigerian President Obasanjo proposed that a continental US\$ 100 levy on air travel be introduced to finance health security—one of several creative resource mobilization options discussed at the Summit. Warning that Africa was at the brink of a funding “cliff edge”, Dr. Ghebreyesus called for the use of innovative forms of health financing. He cited opportunities such as health taxes on tobacco and sugary drinks (which, if increased by 50%, could raise trillions of dollars globally), enhanced budget spending efficiency (up to 13% of health budgets were unspent), and greater use of pooled procurement. These proposals highlighted that the crisis was also an opportunity to innovate and assert sovereignty.

Panelists expanded the focus on innovation, referencing the African Medicines Agency, Africa CDC's innovation platforms, and market shaping interventions to ensure equitable access to vaccines and therapeutics. Private sector leaders and philanthropic partners emphasized the potential of blended finance and investment partnerships to accelerate Africa's innovation ecosystems.

The Accra Communiqué echoes these priorities by declaring health to be both an investment and a security priority. It calls for strengthening fiscal space for health at national level, leveraging Africa's innovation ecosystems, and aligning financial instruments such as the African Development Bank and the African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) behind sovereignty-building ventures.

The Communiqué further affirms that innovative financing—including solidarity levies, health taxes and domestic fiscal reforms—should be explored to secure

sustainable systems. Above all, it reinforces that health is a strategic asset that underpins resilience and prosperity, and that Africa must build, own and safeguard as part of the Accra Reset.

3.3 Systems and Structures

Summit participants reiterated that the principle of subsidiarity should guide governance, ensuring that decisions are made as close as possible to the people they affect. Governance systems should be designed for responsiveness, solidarity and accountability, not mere bureaucratic procedure. African-controlled instruments such as the African Medicines Agency, Africa CDC, AUDA-NEPAD, and the African Development Bank must serve as anchors of this new order, they insisted.

It was not a time for incremental fixes, President Mahama said: global health governance must be reimagined, not patched up. Furthermore, Africa should help convene a renewed governance order, not merely participate in it, he said. Unity was essential if Africa was to be a co-architect of global health governance.

Political leadership, trust and accountability were highlighted as building blocks for sovereignty: without them, structures could not function effectively. Former Liberian President Sirleaf highlighted the trust deficit between leaders and citizens and between Africa and global partners and said greater transparency and accountability was the true test of sovereignty. Ministers echoed these calls by underscoring the need for transparent use of resources and stronger accountability mechanisms.

In panel discussions, participants emphasized the need to reform major multilateral institutions, including WHO, the Global Fund and GAVI, and to ensure that African voices help shape decision-making. The African Medicines Agency was repeatedly cited as an model of pooled sovereignty and continental coordination. Civil society representatives insisted that accountability had to be demonstrated in practice and rooted in communities, not merely codified in institutional reforms.

Informed by that guidance, the Accra Communiqué affirms the call for a reimagined global health governance architecture and endorses Africa's demand for shared power at the decision-making table. It emphasizes the importance of subsidiarity, reinforces the role of continental institutions, and calls for African-led accountability mechanisms that include peer review, transparent reporting, parliamentary oversight, and solidarity-based peer review mechanisms. Governance reform, the Communiqué emphasizes, requires not only political courage but foundations of trust, unity and credible leadership.

3.4 Partnerships as Enablers

Partnerships are essential. They must enable African leadership, not substitute it. The Accra Reset urges a shift from project-based assistance to partnerships that heed and reinforce sovereignty, national priorities and continental instruments.

That calls for clarity about the respective roles of public, private, philanthropic, academic civil society entities, as well as coherence with country plans and the Scaling Up Sovereign Transition and Institutional Networks (SUSTAIN) Framework (see below). The shift also requires erecting guardrails of ownership, transparency and mutual accountability.

Partnerships should unlock Africa's strategic assets—such as local manufacturing, data sovereignty, digital health, research and innovation—while supporting market-shaping actions and regional integration under the African Continental Free Trade Area and the African Medicines Agency. As Ghana's Health Minister Kwabena Mintah Akandoh underscored, the Summit was not convened to polish declarations but to reimagine and co-create Africa's health destiny—through partnerships rooted in solidarity, wisdom and shared investments.

Across the “co-creation” sessions, development partners and communities stressed that health sovereignty requires alignment, not dominance. Private sector and development banks emphasized the use of blended finance and de-risking mechanisms to expand local production and strengthen supply chains. Philanthropic organizations highlighted the value of risk-tolerant capital and catalytic grants to “crowd in” investment. Civil society and youth leaders insisted that the effectiveness of partnerships be judged by their equity and community impact.

Speakers linked the climate change and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response agendas to health sovereignty, noting that climate adaptation finance, emergency preparedness and digital public infrastructure should be coordinated, not siloed. They also underlined the need to broker evidence-based solutions, match partners to country needs, and assist early adopters as they roll out their sovereign health transitions under the SUSTAIN Framework. Health Minister Akandoh noted that sovereignty entails the ability to make binding decisions, deploy domestic capacities, and exercise leadership over systems to safeguard people's health and well-being.

The Accra Communiqué affirms that partnerships must complement sovereignty and calls for cross-sector collaboration that respects African leadership. It lays out several principles for partnership conduct: ownership, alignment to national strategies, transparency on financing and results, and mutual accountability through peer review and public reporting.

The Communiqué further encourages partners to support relevant regional mechanisms and country-led roadmaps that integrate science, innovation, private investment, climate-health linkages and philanthropy under African direction, thereby ensuring that external partners support rather than dictate Africa's agenda.

3.5 The way forward: Sovereignty as the goal, sustainability as the means

The Accra Reset defines health sovereignty as the goal and sustainability as the means, with the SUSTAIN Framework serving as an African-owned instrument for realizing those objectives. Launched at the Summit, the Framework will guide countries along

planned transitions from fragile aid cycles toward resilient, sustainable and sovereign systems. As highlighted in statements from Ghana's Presidency, this entails a process of collectively envisioning and realizing Africa's health future in a rapidly shifting global order.

The SUSTAIN Framework—an African-Owned Tool for Sovereignty

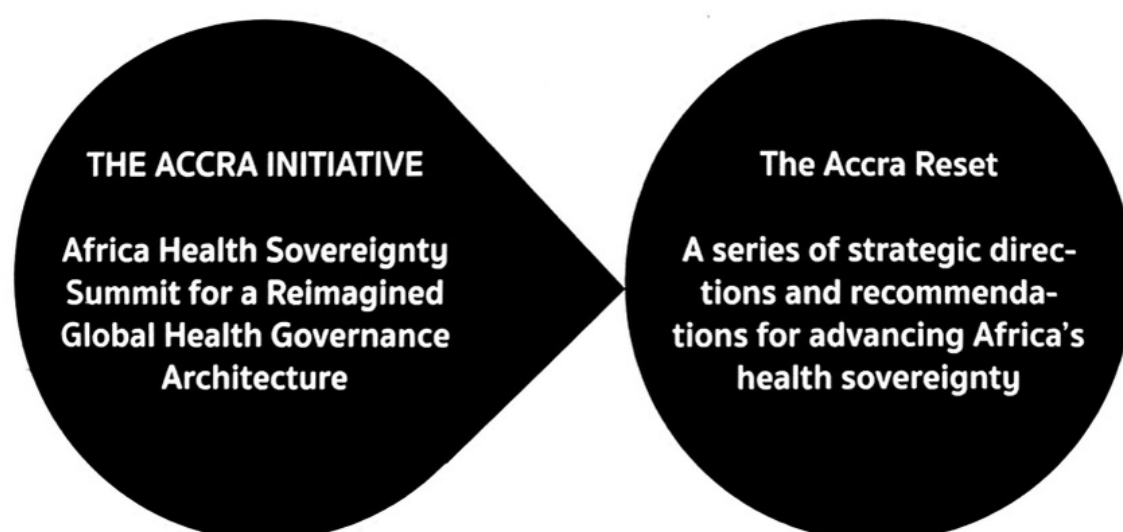
The SUSTAIN Framework was introduced as a practical tool for proceeding from vision to practice by integrating governance, financing, leadership, innovation, data, regulation and partnerships into a single, country-owned health transition pathway of reforms.

The Framework will enable governments to map financing flows (domestic, external, private); design planned transitions away from fragile aid cycles; align partner contributions to national priorities; and strengthen institutional capabilities (policy, regulatory, procurement, workforce and digital public infrastructure) that are required for resilient systems. The Framework requires countries to sequence their reforms across several phases:

- Diagnose and map resources, institutions, legal authorities and delivery gaps;
- Design sovereign transition plans with costed investment cases and risk management;
- Execute budgeted national plans, pooled procurement, market shaping actions and regulatory sovereignty (e.g. African Medicines Agency alignment); and
- Build accountability via public dashboards, peer review and annual communiqués.

Data sovereignty and digital rails (e.g. ID, payments, logistics and health information systems) are embedded in the Framework as cross-cutting enablers.

Figure 1. The process towards a reimagined global health governance architecture



4.1 Health as an engine of inclusive growth and security

Summit participants stressed that health is not a “cost centre”, but an economic growth strategy and a pillar of national security. Health expenditure is an investment that yields multiple economic and social returns—driving productivity, increasing decent jobs and protecting communities and markets from shocks.

African leaders affirmed that sovereign investment means expanding domestic fiscal space and executing budgets reliably, while building industries that anchor long term resilience and prosperity. On the security side, preparedness, supply chain resilience and strong primary health-care systems form the first line of defense against pandemics and climate change risks.

They grounded this reframing in tangible actions. President Mahama underscored that health is the engine of productivity by highlighting steps taken in Ghana, including uncapping National Health Insurance Scheme financing to unlock new resources, establishing a Medical Trust Fund for chronic diseases, and rolling out a primary health-care programme rooted in community health volunteers.

Former Nigerian President Obasanjo’s proposal for an air travel levy illustrated the appetite for fresh resource mobilization ideas. Participants also discussed practical tools to translate fiscal intentions into delivered services, such as selective health taxes, pooled procurement, and resolving execution gaps to reduce budget under spending. Development banks, the private sector and philanthropic entities pointed to blended finance solutions that can de risk investments in local production and accelerate innovation ecosystems, while Africa CDC and the African Medicines Agency highlighted market shaping and regulatory pathways to speed access and scale continental capabilities.

The Accra Communiqué reflects this consensus that health is an investment and basis for security. It calls on countries to increase fiscal space for health, leverage Africa’s innovation ecosystems, and align continental financial instruments (including the African Development Bank and AUDA NEPAD) behind sovereignty goals.

It is by investing in health that Africa will translate the aspirations of the Accra Reset into inclusive growth, jobs and stability.



4.2 Operationalize the SUSTAIN Framework

Under the Framework, countries will map resources and gaps, design costed transition plans, execute reforms through national systems, and give account through transparent dashboards, peer review and parliamentary oversight. Ministers from early adopter countries signaled their readiness to pilot the Framework and generate “proof points” for scaling up the initiatives.

Leaders also agreed to steward implementation through three reinforcing mechanisms: a Presidential Taskforce to sustain political leadership; an Eminent Leadership Group to provide strategic advocacy and mentoring; and an Implementation Support Hub to broker evidence-based solutions, align partners with country priorities, and accompany early adopters during the roll-out.

The closing plenary crystallized those commitments as the operational face of the Accra Reset. Participants also endorsed four key deliverables:

- Creation of a Presidential High-Level Advisory Panel;
- Commitment to inclusivity, leadership, resilience, and sustainable funding;
- Launch of the SUSTAIN Initiative; and
- Endorsement of the Accra Reset.

The Accra Communiqué endorses the SUSTAIN Framework as the continent's tool to operationalize health sovereignty. It calls for early adopter pilots to demonstrate feasibility; supports the establishment of the Taskforce, Eminent Leadership Group and Implementation Support Hub; and affirms periodic peer review and reporting through the AU and at the UN General Assembly, World Health Assembly and the G20. As underlined in messages from Ghana's Presidency, the Framework is intended to enable the co creation of a new operating model for Africa's health sovereignty.

4.3 Reimagine global health governance architecture

The Accra Reset made clear that Africa's sovereignty cannot be secured without a reimagined global health governance architecture. Participants rejected incremental reforms or token inclusion: governance must be rebuilt around shared power, subsidiarity and accountability, they stressed. That means decisions must be made as close as possible to the people they affect, incentives must drive institutions, and Africa must convene—not wait to be invited—the process for designing a new order. Continental instruments such as the AU, Africa CDC, African Medicines Agency, AUDA NEPAD and African Development Bank must serve as pillars of this new order.

President Mahama called on Africa to be the convener of the governance reset, not “a guest at someone else's table”. Former Liberian President Sirleaf reminded leaders that sovereignty will only hold if it is matched with accountability and trust between governments and citizens, and between Africa and global partners. Ministers emphasized that transparency and credibility were the currencies of sovereign leadership. Civil society representatives insisted that accountability must be rooted in communities, not only codified in institutional frameworks. In panel discussions, speakers reiterated the urgency of reforming WHO, the Global Fund and GAVI to reflect Africa's voice in decision making, while the African Medicines Agency was cited as a model of pooled sovereignty and continental coordination.

The Accra Communiqué reflects this consensus, affirming Africa's demand for a reimagined global health governance order. It endorses subsidiarity, reinforces the central role of continental institutions, and calls for African led accountability mechanisms including peer review, parliamentary oversight and solidarity based monitoring. It emphasizes that sovereignty requires political courage as well as credible leadership and unity.

4.4 Align partnerships behind African priorities

Partnerships must enable, not inhibit sovereignty. The Accra Reset calls for converting fragmented projects into country led roadmaps that are aligned to the SUSTAIN Framework and national plans, with clear roles for government, development finance institutions and banks, the private sector, philanthropic entities, academia and civil society. These roadmaps should be governed by four principles: ownership, alignment, transparency, and mutual accountability.

Partners were also asked to channel resources and capabilities into building Africa's strategic assets, while accelerating regional integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area and by advancing the work of the African Medicines Agency.

The co creation sessions set out practical partnership modalities. Development banks and private investors highlighted the potential of blended finance vehicles, while philanthropic partners said risk tolerant, catalytic capital could unlock larger flows of sustainable financing for health sovereignty. Civil society and youth leaders emphasized that partnership success must be measured by equity and community impact, not only inputs or disbursements. Leaders agreed that an Implementation Support Hub should broker evidence based solutions, match partners to priority gaps, and accompany early adopter countries as they implement the SUSTAIN Framework, thereby ensuring that external support strengthens, rather than overshadows, national agendas.

The over-arching goal is to co create Africa's health destiny on fair terms, with Africa leading.

4.5 Institutionalize continental accountability

Sovereignty requires accountability. The Accra Reset emphasizes the importance of institutionalized systems of trust, transparency and responsibility at national and continental levels.

Leaders agreed to establish a continental accountability framework that will measure progress toward health sovereignty through scorecards, public dashboards and periodic AU peer review. Parliamentary oversight and citizen engagement are essential to ensure that accountability is not only upward to partners, but also horizontal and peer driven within Africa and toward the people who rely on health systems.

Stressing these themes, former Liberian President Sirleaf spoke of the hollow nature of sovereignty when it lacks accountability and trust. Ministers of Health and Finance stated that transparency in domestic systems was the currency of credible sovereignty. Civil society and youth leaders insisted that accountability must be practiced at community level, where services are delivered and rights realized. In the closing plenary, participants endorsed an AU peer review and public reporting as mechanisms for advancing accountability continentally and globally.

The Accra Communiqué captures this consensus by calling for African led accountability mechanisms. They include peer review cycles at AU summits, public disclosure of financing flows and outcomes, parliamentary oversight and solidarity based monitoring among peers. The Communiqué also endorses the creation of a sovereignty scorecard and integrity safeguards for procurement and contracting.

By institutionalizing continental accountability and by building trust at home and credibility abroad, Africa can ensure that the Reset is enforceable and sustainable.

Leaders affirmed that the Accra Summit marked a step in the journey to embed sovereignty into Africa's health and development systems. The Accra Reset is a political commitment that translates this vision into milestones and deliverables to reimagine global health governance with Africa's sovereignty at the center. Leaders affirmed that health is not only a social good but also a driver of productivity, innovation, and economic transformation domain where Africa's sovereignty is affirmed, setting the terms of engagement in global health and development.

To carry this vision forward, the roadmap establishes a Presidential Taskforce (High-Level Panel) supported by a dedicated Secretariat Hub. This mechanism will convene continental and global leadership, uniting heads of state, regional institutions, civil society, and partners to drive a new governance architecture rooted in equity, inclusivity, and African ownership. The Panel will provide a platform for coordinated engagement, accountability, and the translation of political will into action.

The Reset also launches the SUSTAIN Initiative as one of the vehicles to demonstrate sovereignty in practice. But the Reset goes beyond any single framework: it is about anchoring sovereignty in continental institutions and global negotiations, ensuring that Africa speaks with one voice in the ongoing Global Reform and beyond (AU Summit, G20 and G7).

This Roadmap is more than a declaration—it is Africa's blueprint to claim its rightful place in shaping a new, just, and sovereign global health order.

The Africa Health Sovereignty Summit in Accra was more than a gathering; it was a turning point. Leaders, institutions and communities came together to articulate a bold way forward—the Accra Reset—that is anchored in sovereignty, sustainability and solidarity.

The Reset frames sovereignty as a foundation, investments and assets as engines of growth, systems and structures as a basis for shared power, and partnerships as a means for achieving national and continental priorities. The SUSTAIN Framework will serve as an instrument to bring about country-owned, sustainable health systems.

From Accra, Africa is sending a clear message to the world: health is not about charity, it is about sovereignty, security and investing in the future. The Reset redefines Africa's role from recipient to author, from participant to convener. It insists that the continent's voices, innovations and institutions are indispensable to a new global order. The Reset aligns with Africa's legacy of bold steps—like the Abuja Declaration, the creation of the Global Fund, the Lusaka Agenda—and launches a new chapter for Africa.

The journey from Accra now moves to continental and global platforms. AU summits, the UN General Assembly, the World Health Assembly and G20 gatherings will showcase Africa's "proof-points": early adopter pilots of the SUSTAIN Framework; operationalization of the Presidential Taskforce, the Eminent Leadership Group, and the Implementation Support Hub; and progress toward establishing an Africa Health Fund. Those milestones will show that the Reset is about delivery, not rhetoric, and about action, not wish-making.

From Accra to the world, Africa declares its resolve to lead, own and sustain health systems that deliver dignity, resilience and prosperity. The Reset is Africa's pledge to its people and to humanity—a promise of sovereignty shared, sustainability achieved and solidarity renewed.

7.1 Speaker and Participant List

Presidents and Former Presidents

H.E. John Dramani Mahama	President of the Republic of Ghana
H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo	Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
H.E. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim	Former President of the Republic of Mauritius
H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf	Former President of the Republic of Liberia
Rt Hon. Gordon Brown	Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Special Guests

H.E. Ursula von der Leyen	President of the European Commission
Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Director-General, WHO
Hon. Julius Debrah	Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Ghana
Amb. Amma Twum-Amoah	Commissioner for Health, AU
Hon. Dr. Mark Dybul	Co-Director, Georgetown Global Health Centre
Hon. Dr. John Nkengasong	Executive Director, Mastercard Foundation
Mr. Peter Sands	Executive Director, Global Fund
Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas	CEO, AUDA-NEPAD
Dr. Mohamed Janabi	Regional Director for Africa, WHO AFRO
Dr. Jean Kaseya	Director-General, Africa CDC
Mr. Olumide Olatunji	Chief Executive Officer, Access Bank

Ministers of State

Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh	Minister of Health, Ghana
Hon. Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate	Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Nigeria
Hon. Cassiel Ato Forson	Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Ghana
Hon. Dr. Pierre Somse	Minister of Health and Population, Central Africa Republic
Hon. Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana	Minister of Health of Rwanda
Hon. Michel Sidibé	Minister of Health and Social Affairs, Mali
Hon. Dr. Austin Demby	Minister of Health, Sierra Leone
Hon. Teodoro Herbosa	Secretary of Health, Philippines
Hon. Thomas Nyarko Ampem	Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Ghana

High-Level Guests

Hon. Nana Oye	Deputy Chief of Staff, Ghana
Dr. Edem Adzogenu	Co-Chair, AfroChampions Initiative
Hon. Dr. Victor Bampoe	CEO, National Health Insurance Authority, Ghana.
Prof. Peter Piot	Chief Scientific Advisor, European Union and leading global health expert
Dr. Magda Robalo	Global Expert, Former Minister of Health, Guinea-Bissau
Dr. Paulin Basinga	Director, Gates Foundation
Ms. Priya Basu	Head, Pandemic Fund Secretariat, World Bank
Mr. Naveen Rao	SVP Health, Rockefeller Foundation
Dr. Loice Rono	Health Advisor, Executive Office of The President, Kenya
Dr. Ebere Okereke	Chief Programme Officer of Reaching the Last Mile Foundation

Dr. Githinji Gitahi	Group CEO, Amref Health Africa
Mr. Elhadj As Sy	Chair of the Board, Kofi Annan Foundation
Dr. Olusoji Adeyi	President, Resilient Health Systems
Dr. Yodi Alakaji	Board Chair, FIND
Dr. Tom Friedan	President, Resolve to Save Lives
Dr. Mandeep Dhaliwal	Director, HIV & Health Group, UNDP
Dr. Lee Abdelfadil	Team Lead, Programme Partnerships, UNAIDS
Dr. Angeli Achrekar	Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS
Ms. Cecilia Lodonou Senoo	Founder & Executive Director, Hope for Future Generations
Dr. Ahmed Ogwell	CEO, VillageReach
Prof. Padmashree Gehl Sampath	CEO, African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation
Mr. Solomon Adegbie-Quaynor	VP Private Sector, AfDB
Dr. Neil Shah	Chief Executive Officer, Clinton Health Access Initiative
Dr. Ngozi Erundu	Technical Director, GLIDE

7.2 Agenda

The Accra Initiative: African health sovereignty in a reimagined global health governance architecture: a co-creation summit

Meeting outcomes

Under the esteemed leadership of African Heads of State and Government:

1. Convene a high-level dialogue with global political leaders, global health experts, civil society, the private sector, foundations, and development partners. The dialogue will reflect on the shifting geopolitical landscape, forge consensus, and co-create bold, African sovereign solutions to shape the reimagining of global health governance architecture.
2. Establish a Presidential Task Force to co-create a time-bound framework for a practical and more fit-for-purpose global health governance architecture.

3. Endorse the SUSTAIN framework to safeguard and build on the gains made in global health over the years.

07:30 – 09:00	Arrival and registration
07:30 – 08:45:	Arrival, security clearance and registration
08:45 – 09:00:	Welcome by Mr. Bernard Avle – renowned Ghanaian journalist, master of ceremonies (15 mins)
09:00 – 10:30	Opening ceremony and Presidential Address
09:00 - 09:02:	National anthem of the Republic of Ghana
09:05 - 09:10:	Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh – Minister of Health, Ghana (speaker, 5 mins)
09:13 - 09:18:	Hon. Julius Debrah – Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Ghana (speaker, 5 mins)
09:21 - 09:27:	Solidarity remarks from global champions: The Rt Hon. Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission (2 short videos, 6 mins)
09:30 - 09:37:	Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus – Director-General, WHO (speaker, 7 mins)
09:40 - 09:47:	H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo – former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (speaker, 7 mins)
09:50 - 10:00:	Presidential entrance buffer
10:00 - 10:15:	H.E. John Dramani Mahama – President of the Republic of Ghana
10:15 – 10:30	Transition: Setting the stage for panel discussions.
10:30 – 11:15	Setting the stage: a dialogue on shaping the future of global health
10:30 – 10:40:	Dr. Magda Robalo – global expert, former Minister of Health, Guinea-Bissau, master of ceremonies (10 mins)
10:40 – 11:15:	H.E. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim – former President of the Republic of Mauritius, and Hon. Prof. Muhammad Pate – Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Nigeria (fireside chat 35 mins)
11:15 – 12:30	Plenary: Reimagining a new global health governance architecture

Moderators

Hon. Dr. John Nkengasong – Executive Director, Mastercard Foundation

Hon. Dr. Mark Dybul – Co-Director, Georgetown Global Health Center

Panelists

Dr. Ebere Okereke – Chief Programme Officer of Reaching the Last Mile Foundation

Dr. Pierre Somse – Minister of Public Health and Population, Central African Republic

Dr. Githinji Gitahi – Group CEO, Amref Health Africa

Amb. Amma Twum-Amoah – Commissioner for Health, African Union

Reflections

Mr. Elhadj As Sy – Chair of the Board, Kofi Annan Foundation

Dr. Olusoji Adeyi – President, Resilient Health Systems

Dr. Yodi Alakaji – Board Chair, FIND

Additional participant reflections

12:30 – 13:45

Ministerial Roundtable: SUSTAIN Framework –safeguarding global health gains

Presenters

Hon. Nana Oye – Deputy Chief of Staff, Ghana

Dr. Edem Adzogenu – Co-chair, AfroChampions Initiative

Moderators

Hon. Michel Sidibé – Former Minister of Health, Mali

Hon. Dr. Victor Bampoe – CEO, National Health Insurance Authority, Ghana

Panelists

Hon. Cassiel Ato Forson – Minister of Finance, Ghana

Hon. Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana – Minister of Health, Rwanda

Hon. Dr. Austin Demby – Minister of Health, Sierra Leone

Hon. Teodoro Herbosa – Secretary of Health, Philippines

Reflections

Dr. Loice Rono – Health Advisor, Executive Office of The President, Kenya

Dr. Tom Friedan – President, Resolve to Save Lives

Additional participant reflections

13:45 – 14:45

Insights lunch

Open insights in thematic lunch tables and online chatrooms

- (1) African leadership
- (2) Health financing
- (3) Resilient institutions
- (4) Accountability and partnerships
- (5) Manufacturing and technology in a reimagined global health governance architecture

14:45 – 16:00

Co-creation panel: role of development partners and communities in a reimagined global health governance architecture

Moderators

Dr. Mandeep Dhaliwal – Director, HIV & Health Group, UNDP (virtual)

Dr. Lee Abdelfadil – Team Lead, Programme Partnerships, UNAIDS

Panelists

Mr. Peter Sands – Executive Director, Global Fund (virtual)

Dr. Angeli Achrekar – Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS

Dr. Mohamed Janabi – Regional Director for Africa, WHO AFRO

Dr. Jean Kaseya – Director-General, Africa CDC

Ms. Cecilia Lodonou Senoo – Founder & Executive Director, Hope for Future Generations

Reflections

Dr. Ahmed Ogwell – CEO, VillageReach

Additional participant reflections

16:00 – 17:15

Co-creation panel: Role of development banks, private sector & philanthropy in a reimagined global health governance architecture

Moderators

Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas – CEO, AUDA-NEPAD

Prof. Padmashree Gehl Sampath – CEO, African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation

7.3 Post-Event Communiqué



PRESIDENCY COMMUNICATION

www.presidency.gov.gh

Accra, Ghana
Monday, 5 August 2025

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Accra initiative for a new global health governance architecture

At the Africa Health Sovereignty Summit, 5 August 5 2025, in Accra, Ghana, convened under the patronage of H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, with participation by

1. H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria
2. H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia
3. H.E. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, former President of Mauritius
4. H.E. Amma Twum-Amoah, African Union Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development
5. Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO

PREAMBLE

Considering that diseases—both infectious and noncommunicable—pose interconnected threats to global health, economic stability, and security. The scale and breadth of their impact require coordinated responses across sectors and borders, involving public health systems, economic policy, and security infrastructure. Combatting disease threats is not only a matter of health but critical to sustaining national security and economic development in an interconnected world;

Considering that tremendous gains made over the past decades in global health: Child mortality more than halved from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 38 in 2021, widespread vaccination programs; maternal mortality declined by over 40% between 2000 and 2023, supported by improvements in childbirth care and access to essential health services; HIV/AIDS-related deaths have been cut by half since 2010, with nearly 29 million people accessing antiretroviral therapy by 2021, compared to

7.8 million in 2010; introduction of new vaccines, such as the first malaria vaccine for children recommended in 2021, represents breakthrough progress in controlling previously deadly diseases, and between 2000 and 2024, an estimated 1.4 billion more people were living healthier lives due to reductions in tobacco use, better air quality, and increased access to water, sanitation, and healthcare services;

Considering the rapidly evolving global geopolitical and health landscape, marked by diminishing international assistance and emerging health threats, leaders and stakeholders convened to chart a transformative path for global health financing and governance to sustain the gains achieved so far;

Recognizing that the current global health architecture faces critical challenges—including funding shortfalls, fragmented leadership, and inequities that disproportionately affect the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations—participants reaffirmed the urgent need for a new, equitable, and sustainable health governance system.

DECLARATION

- I. The high-level Accra Initiative called for a reimagined global health order that empowers nations to lead resilient and self-sustaining health responses.
- II. The Summit places health within a broader agenda for stimulating investment and economic transformation. In this new paradigm, health is treated as a foundational sector that strengthens labor productivity, drives innovation, and catalyzes value chains across diagnostics, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, logistics, and digital infrastructure. Health thus serves as a strategic lens through which wider continental ambitions for industrialization, trade integration, and geo-economic sovereignty can be pursued.
- III. The Accra Initiative endorsed the following principles in reimagining a new global health order:
 - Improve continental leadership, national accountability and institutional resilience;
 - Ensure equity, transparency, and inclusive participation in decision-making.
 - Ensure inclusive participation of low- and middle-income countries and civil society;
 - Secure diversified, sustainable financing from domestic, regional, and private sources;
 - Position health as a productivity and innovation driver within economic policy;
 - Embed Africa-led standards, data sovereignty, and manufacturing in continental value chains;
 - Foster cross-sectoral collaboration to address interconnected challenges in health, economy, and security.

- IV. The Initiative further agreed on a strategic outcome that includes the formation of a Presidential High-Level Panel for further engagement and inclusivity on a framework of a reimagined global health architecture and a roadmap for the national implementation and strengthened coordination with international development partners for a smooth transition.
- V. Building on Africa's proven legacy of health leadership, the Summit launched the SUSTAIN Initiative, a framework designed to promote country-owned, investment-driven, and sustainable health systems. This initiative aims to bridge the funding gap arising from declining external aid by mobilizing domestic resources and engaging private sector. SUSTAIN will further serve as a vehicle for a broader reimagining of Africa's place in the world—linking sovereign health systems to wider capabilities in trade, data governance, and industrial policy. This includes embedding health sovereignty into Africa's continental economic platforms: the AU's 4D framework exemplified by the PROPER platform for supply chain traceability, the PanaBIOS digital certification system for mobility and biosecurity, and the AfCFTA Hub for integrating African businesses into global trade networks. These platforms complement SUSTAIN as an operational framework to transition from donor volatility toward investment-led, nationally financed systems.

The Accra Initiative marks a pivotal step toward securing a healthier, more equitable future for all, reinforcing collective responsibility and innovative approaches to global health governance.

Beyond the specific domain of health, the Accra Initiative will serve both as a reference point and contributor to the broader discussions around reforming multilateralism, global cooperation and development for a sustainable, post-aid world.

THE PRESIDENCY

Republic of Ghana

Email: office@presidency.gov.gh



African Union

AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT BANK

THE
AFRICAN
CHAMPIONS
INITIATIVE

NHIS
NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
SYSTEM

access

World Health
Organization

THE
GLOBAL
FUND

The
Rockefeller
Foundation

UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS
POPULATION DIVISION

7.4 Selected quotes

SOVEREIGNTY



“Africa must no longer be the patient; it should be the driver, the architect and the advocate of its own health destiny. Let us not only re-imagine the future but also own it.”

“Africa’s healing is not a plea; it is a rallying cry for sovereignty.”

H.E. John Dramani Mahama
President of the Republic of Ghana (Host)



“The challenges before us demand African solutions driven by African resources, African expertise and African determination.”

“Africa’s health sovereignty will not be achieved without the full leadership, equity and participation of women in every area of our endeavor.”

H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
Former President of Liberia



“Africa does not need charity; Africa needs fair terms.”

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General, World Health Organization



"The new public health order is not only a vision; it's a call for action."

Dr. Jean Kaseya
Director-General, Africa Centres for Disease
Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)



"The status quo for these organisations is not an option—this is not about responding to a financial crisis, but a change that had to happen anyway."

Professor Peter Piot
Founding Executive Director (former), UNAIDS



"Sovereignty is not about power, for it is about people—it begins and ends with the people."

Cecilia Senoo
Executive Director, Hope for Future
Generations (CSO Ghana)

RE-IMAGINE



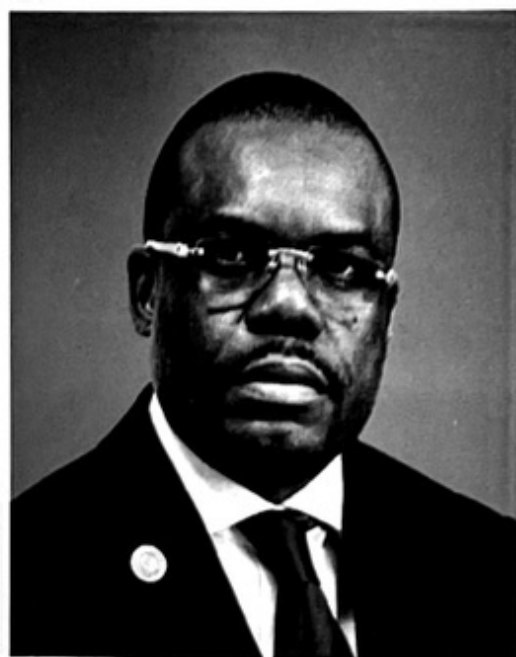
We're called to redesign the architecture that has for too long excluded Africa's voices, excluded Africa's needs and innovation. We must build a system that generates resilience, produces equity and amplifies the dignity of our people."

H.E. John Dramani Mahama
President of the Republic of Ghana (Host)



"We need a new world order that meets the ambitions of the sides, engages all parts of the world as partners, and ensures a sustainable, vibrant, secure and prosperous future."

Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown
Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom



"The new public health order is not only a vision; it's a call for action."

Dr. Jean Kaseya ,
Director-General, Africa Centres for Disease
Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)



"For too long Africa has been spoken to rather than listened to. A dependent health system cannot defend itself and a sick nation cannot develop. Let us instead build a future where our investment, innovation, and integrity secure the well-being of our children."

Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh
Minister of Health, Republic of Ghana



"Health is not a cost to be contained; it's an investment to be nurtured — in people, stability, and prosperity."

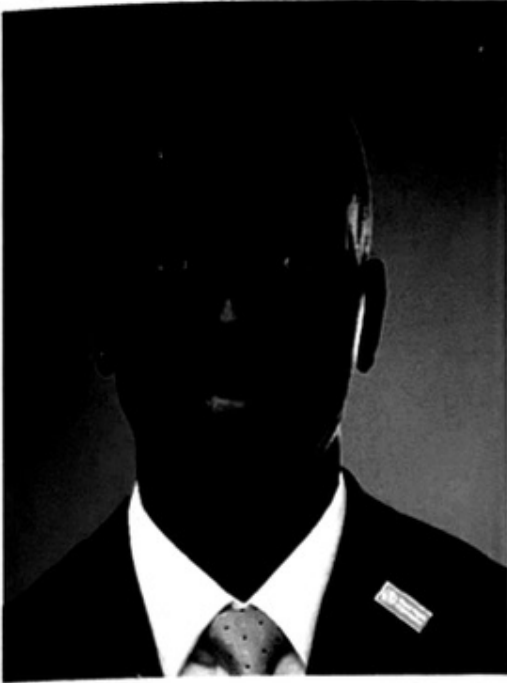
Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General, World Health Organization

CO-CREATION



"I believe our slogan should be: African health without aid — but with global partnership, solidarity, cooperation, collaboration, and togetherness."

H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo
Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



**“This is not a mission;
this is a shared vision.”**

Dr. Mohamed Yakub Janabi
WHO Regional Director for Africa (AFRO)



**“This summit is also a signal to the world that
Africa is no longer a passive participant in
global health governance.”**

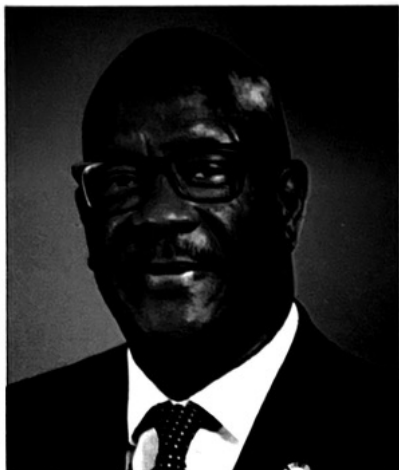
Hon. Nana Oye Bampoe Addo
Deputy Chief of Staff (Administration),
Office of the President, Ghana



**“We as Africa bring to the table the clarity of
Abuja, the ambition of Accra, the momentum of
Lusaka and the voices of 55 member states that
are ready to lead.”**

Amb. Amma Twum-Amoah,
Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs
& Social Development, African Union

OTHER ISSUES (URGENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY)



"We are in a hurry. Every delay means a pregnant woman dies. A baby dies."

Hon. Dr. Austin Demby
Minister of Health and Sanitation,
Republic of Sierra Leone



"Too many promises were made and too many promises were broken. Let the promise of Accra not be one of them."

Dr. Elhadj As Sy
Chair of the Board, Kofi Annan Foundation
and Chancellor, Liverpool School of Tropical
Medicine



"What happens in Accra should not stay in Accra."

Dr. Ahmed Ogbwell
Chief Executive Officer, VillageReach

OTHER ISSUES (URGENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY)



“Africa is not an observer — it was never an observer. Even during COVID, Africa was a co-designer of the evolution of global health governance and financing models.”

Ambassador Dr. John Nkengasong
Director of the Africa Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



“This is a rallying call for sovereignty from Accra. Let the world hear it — and let us as Africans put our ‘money,’ where our promises are.”

Dr. Victor Bampoe
CEO National Health Insurance Authority
Republic of Ghana



“We, as technical partners, face the same challenges as countries and communities, and we too must align our mandate, our institutions, and our delivery with this call for sovereignty.”

Dr. Lee Abdelfadil
