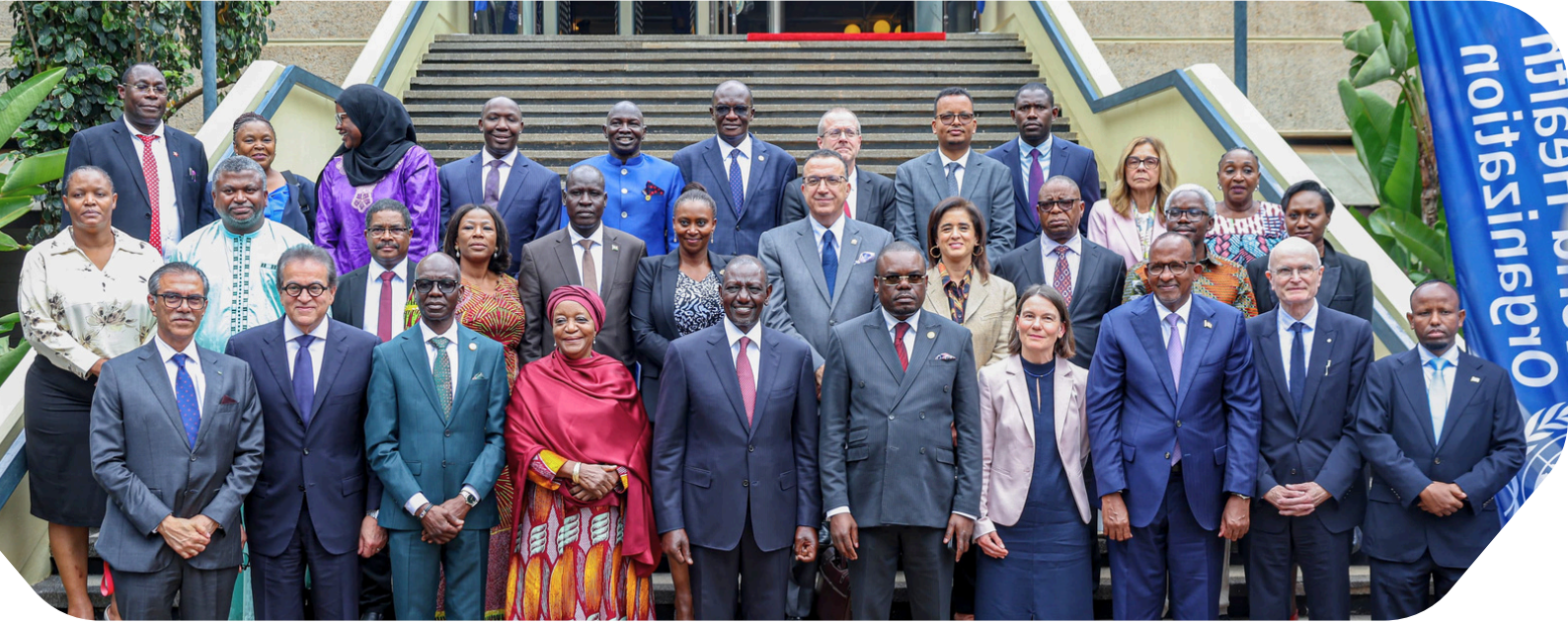


MOH DAILY NEWS BRIEF



President Ruto opens World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 in Nairobi

The three-day meeting has brought together more than 2,300 delegates from over 50 countries across five continents, including Ministers of Health and Finance, scientists, researchers, clinicians, innovators, civil society leaders, and development partners.

The Summit positions Nairobi as a key global convening point for shaping the future of health in Africa and beyond.

Also in attendance were Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni and Principal Secretary for Medical Services Ouma Oluga.



The World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 was officially opened by President William Samoei Ruto, alongside Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, during the opening plenary held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

Hosted by the Aga Khan University in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization, the high-level meeting is convened under the theme "Reimagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence."

Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale underscored the Summit's role as a platform for advancing health systems transformation, strengthening partnerships, and accelerating progress towards Universal Health Coverage and health security across the continent.





Kenya, Egypt advance health cooperation at WHS Nairobi 2026

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale held bilateral talks with Egypt's Minister for Health and Population Khaled Abdel Ghaffar on the sidelines of the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026, focusing on strengthening collaboration across manufacturing, medicines access, specialist outreach, and training.

The engagement highlighted opportunities for joint pharmaceutical manufacturing, technology transfer, and regulatory alignment to support Kenya's local production agenda and improve supply resilience.

Access to medicines at primary healthcare level featured prominently, with discussions emphasising the need for targeted, standards-aligned supply to address priority health needs.



The two sides also reviewed plans for an Egyptian medical mission to Kenya in June 2026 to expand specialist services in underserved areas, anchored on skills transfer and a structured annual programme.

In addition, Kenya proposed scaling up training partnerships through exchanges, structured intake, and short-term attachments starting 2026/2027.

Both countries agreed to designate focal persons and undertake a joint progress review within six months to monitor implementation.





Kenya to host Africa CDC regional centre following new agreement

Kenya has signed a framework agreement with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to establish the Eastern Africa Regional Coordinating Centre in Nairobi, strengthening regional health security.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale said the Centre will serve 14 Member States and enhance coordination, preparedness, and response to public health emergencies across Eastern Africa.

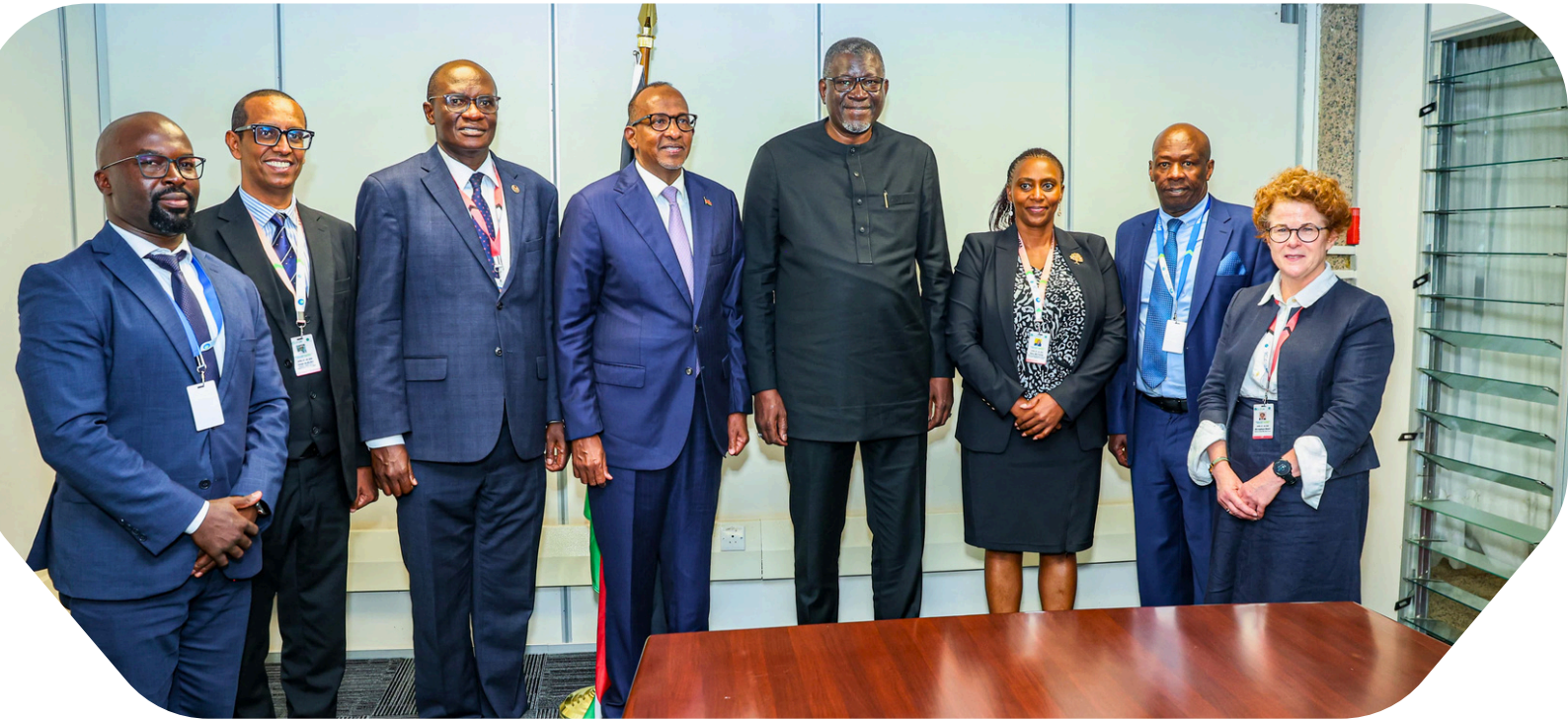
The agreement was signed during the inauguration of the High-Level African Health Leadership Ministerial Committee, co-chaired by Jean Kaseya, on the sidelines of the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026.

The initiative supports broader efforts to strengthen continental health systems, reduce reliance on external support, and accelerate investment in sustainable health infrastructure.

The development reinforces Africa's shift towards locally driven health solutions, including stronger continental coordination and investment in resilient health systems.

Also present were Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, Muhammad Ali Pate, and Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, among other leaders.





Kenya calls for stronger global action on snakebite

Kenya has renewed its call to prioritise snakebite envenoming as a major public health emergency, urging coordinated national and global action to address its impact.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale said the country records over 19,000 cases annually, with more than 1,000 deaths and many survivors left with long-term disability. He spoke during a bilateral engagement with Global Snakebite Taskforce Co-Chair Elhadj As Sy on the sidelines of the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026.

Duale outlined Kenya's system-wide response, including integration of snakebite care into Universal Health Coverage, strengthened community-level detection and referral, improved surveillance, and hotspot mapping to better target high-risk areas.



The country is also advancing domestic capacity through the Kenya Institute of Primate Research to develop locally effective antivenom, alongside plans for a National Antivenom Quality Control Laboratory, while continuing to drive regional advocacy with partners including the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, and the African Union Development Agency.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni and Director-General for Health Patrick Amoth, among other officials.



PS Medical Services calls for stronger primary healthcare leadership

Principal Secretary for Medical Services Ouma Oluga has called for sustained policy leadership and political commitment to strengthen primary healthcare systems in Kenya and across Africa.

Dr Oluga made the remarks during a high-level panel at the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, where discussions focused on financing, advocacy, and accountability in primary healthcare.

The session, themed “Primary Healthcare Financing, Advocacy and Political Accountability,” brought together global and regional leaders to examine pathways for building resilient and sustainable health systems.



The Principal Secretary emphasised that effective primary healthcare delivery must be anchored in strong policy direction and backed by political commitment, with community engagement critical to driving uptake and long-term success.

He highlighted domestic resource mobilisation as a key enabler in expanding access to essential services, improving affordability and efficiency, and underscored the need for sustainability in ongoing health sector reforms. He further outlined priorities including translating policy into action, strengthening institutional and community capacity, and ensuring strategic resource allocation.

Participants in the session included National Assembly Finance and National Planning Committee Chair Kuria Kimani, Margaret Lubaale, Vandana Shah, and Thabani Maphosa, among other stakeholders.



Pictorial highlights from the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 in Nairobi.

