

Subject: Strengthening Health Data Governance at national and global level

Dear Honorable [NAME OF MP],

The digitalisation of health systems and the rapid development of digital tools and Artificial Intelligence (AI) has increased the amount of health data being collected and used. Health data needs to be effectively governed to ensure the right protections are in place to safeguard personal privacy and rights, and mitigate risks of data misuse; while also supporting responsible data use for public benefit and improved health outcomes.

I / We write to you today to ask your support to urge the Minister of Health to prioritise the issue during the World Health Assembly and to call on the WHO and its governing bodies, and on other governments to support the creation of a global health data governance framework. A global health data governance framework, endorsed by Member States through the World Health Assembly, would build consensus and alignment across countries around essential areas that should be addressed through national legislation and regulation for the governance of health data, thereby establishing a global standard which would provide countries with a flexible blueprint to strengthen their national legislation and regulation. This would also help support compatibility across countries to support cross-border data flows.

It is important that the framework be informed by principles of equity and rights such as those set out in the [Health Data Governance Principles](#) and that it be developed through an inclusive and consultative process. It is also important for the Minister of Health and for Parliament to strengthen domestic legislation and regulation on health data.

The [model law on health data governance](#), developed by a legal team specialising in data governance law along with civil society organisations, and with input from more than 1000 stakeholders from 65 different countries, provides a legislative guide and flexible framework that can be used by countries (fully or in part) to strengthen national frameworks, such as in [COUNTRY]. It sets out core components that the government and the legislature can use to update our own national legislation. It also provides a potential foundation for a global framework..

Towards this end, we urge you to call on the Minister of Health to:

1. Prioritise health data governance in regional and global fora, particularly at the 78th World Assembly in May 2025, and to champion a global framework on health data governance (informed by the model law) and its endorsement through a World Health Assembly resolution.
2. Take action to strengthen national health data governance frameworks, including setting up a review of existing national legislation on health data governance and using the model law as a benchmark and framework to strengthen national legislation and regulation governing health data.
3. Endorse the [health data governance principles](#)

I / We would also like to encourage you to champion this issue in parliament to ensure adequate scrutiny and accountability for the way health data is being addressed and governed across the country and beyond.

Sincerely,

[NAME(S)]

