

PROGRAMME

Investing in Africa's Health

High-Level Forum on Sustainable Health Financing

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Formal Project Launch · Political Acceleration · Resource Mobilization

Tangier, Morocco. 1 April 2026

08:30 – 09:30 OPENING SEGMENT

Health as Sovereign Investment: The Macroeconomic Imperative

Speakers

- **H.E. Amine Tahraoui, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Kingdom of Morocco**
- **Dr. Tewodros Bekele, Senior Director, Global Programs, Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation (STBF)**
- **Dr Delese Mimi Darko, Director General, African Medicines Agency (AMA)**
- **H.E. Dr Jean Kaseya, Director General, Africa Centres for, Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)**
- **Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO) (Video Remarks)**
- **Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
- **H.E. Professor Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON, Former Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**
- **H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson, African Union Commission**
- **H.E. Claver Gatete, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**
- **H.E. Nadia Fettah Alaoui, Minister of Economy and Finance, Kingdom of Morocco**

Objective

- Establish health financing reform as a macroeconomic and sovereignty issue.
- Formally launch the project with first financing signals.
- Open the Financing Commitment Register with visible anchor commitments.
- Promote #InvestInHealthAfrica

COFFEE BREAK

Short video to introduce the Digital Platform - Formal Project Launch- Mr. Aboubakri Diaw – Chief of Staff, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

09:30 – 12:30 SESSION I

From Fiscal Strategy to Innovative Financing

The analytical and resource mobilization core of the event · Three parts

The session moves from fiscal foundation to capital mobilization in three sequential parts. The core argument, that innovative instruments are only viable when grounded in credible, fiscally embedded national strategies, must be established in Part A before Part B can have transactional weight. The Ministerial–Investor Dialogue then converts that weight into named commitments.

Session I Anchor | 09:30 – 09:40

Speaker & Theme

S. Ali Abbas, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund
Keynote - Theme: “Fiscal Sustainability and Health Investment in Debt-Constrained Contexts”

Purpose

- Anchor fiscal realism — innovative instruments require credible fiscal foundations.
- Establish that health investment must align with debt sustainability and macro stability.

PART A — The Fiscal Foundations of Sustainable Health Financing | 09:40 – 10:40

To move from general fiscal endorsement to **country-specific reform pathways**, demonstrating how health financing is credibly embedded within macro-fiscal frameworks under real-world constraints.

Scenesetting: Ms. Mahda Halmi, Population and Development Expert ,UNFPA

Theme: Demographic Dynamics and Fiscal Space: Reframing Health Investment| (5 minutes)

Moderator: H.E Dr. Marvin Fanny, Minister of Health, Seychelles

Speakers

- **H.E Tahir Hamid Ngulin, Minister of Finance, Budget and Economy, Chad**
- **H.E Ms. Maria Ebiaca Moete, Secretary of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Equatorial Guinea**
- **H.E Sheku Ahmed Bangura, Minister of Finance, Sierra Leone**
- **Hon. Buah Saidy, Governor, Central Bank of The Gambia.**
- **H.E. Mr. Marc Abeghe, Minister Delegate for Economy, Finance, Debt and**

Expected Outcomes

- A clear typology of what works in embedding health in macro-fiscal frameworks grounded in country experience.
- Explicit identification of what to avoid
- Public identification of a first cohort of reform-ready countries,
- Agreement across Ministers of Finance and Health on a minimum reform sequencing logic (fiscal embedding → efficiency → instruments).

Shareholdings, in charge of the Budget, Gabon

- Initial convergence on accountability mechanisms, including budget tracking and civil society oversight.

PART B — Structuring Innovative Instruments | 10:50 – 11:50

Examines practical capital mobilization mechanisms: debt-for-health swaps, health excise taxes and solidarity levies, diaspora and ESG-linked bonds, blended finance vehicles, and African institutional investor participation. The political objective is to move beyond conceptual endorsement toward instruments feasible within short to long-term time frame.

Scenesetting: Stephen Karingi, Director, Macroeconomic, Finance and Governance Division (MFGD), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (5 minutes)

Theme: From Fiscal Foundations to Financing Instruments: Structuring What Works in Africa.

Keynote: Ambassador Keisha McGuire, former PR Grenada to the UN and Chief Global Affairs Officer, RestoringVision.

Theme: From Political Commitment to Practical Instruments: Structuring Scalable Health Financing for High-Impact Delivery. (5 minutes)

Moderator: Nikhil Chulani, Managing Director, Capital and Credit, Medaccess

Speakers

- Prof Kevin Urama, VP and Chief Economist, African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Dr. Ahmadou Moustapha Ndiaye, Director Maghreb and Malta, World Bank
- Haytam El Maayergi, Executive VP of Global Trade Bank, Afreximbank
- Ms Agnes Soucat, Director Health and Social Protection, French Agency of Development
- Dr Imed Drine, Manager Economic Research, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Matthew Macgregor, Head, Health Finance Department, Health Finance, Global Fund
- Dr. Richard Mihigo, Director, Programmatic and Strategic Engagement, GAVI

Objective

Transition from conceptual discussion of innovative financing to transaction-ready instruments, with clear institutional roles, risk frameworks, and implementation timelines

Expected Outcomes

- Identification of 2–3 priority instruments that are immediately actionable (e.g. debt-for-health swaps, solidarity levies, blended vehicles).
- Clear articulation of what works in structuring instruments
- Explicit recognition of what to avoid
- Formal expressions of interest from at least 3 institutions

Key Discussion Points

- Debt-for-health swaps as liquidity management tools.
- Health excise taxes and solidarity levies.
- Diaspora and ESG-linked bonds.
- Blended finance vehicles and risk-sharing guarantees.
- Legal feasibility, PFM integration, verification.

- linked to specific instruments and countries.
- Preliminary mapping of de-risking roles

From Policy to Transactions: The Country–Instrument Matching | 11:50 – 12:30

To convert policy alignment into **country-specific, transaction-ready pathways** by matching **instruments, countries, and financing partners** under real constraints.

Moderator: Constant N’Zi – Interim Group CEO, African Guarantee Fund (AGF)

Keynote: Dr. Mohamed Yakub Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa

Theme: “From Health Priorities to Bankable Reforms” (5 minutes)

Scenesetting: Matthew Macgregor, Head, Health Finance Department, Health Finance, Global Fund

Theme: “From Priorities to Pipelines: Structuring Country Health Needs into Financeable Transactions” (5 minutes)

Participants

- Finance Ministers and representatives (all)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)
- Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation (STBF)
- French Development Agency (AFD)
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund)
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (GAVI)
- RestoringVision
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)
- World Bank Group (World Bank)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Resident Coordinator in Morocco (UN RC Morocco)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Expected Outcomes

- Public identification of 3–4 country–instrument pairs for immediate development.
- Formal expression of institutional roles (structuring, financing, guarantees, TA).
- Agreement on specific next steps per country
- Entries in the Financing Commitment Register limited to actionable steps.

12:30 – 14:00 MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE LUNCH: FROM COMMITMENT TO REFORM - STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE HEALTH FINANCING

Session on Strategic Alignment

Ministers and selected institutional partners only

To convert political interest into country-level reform commitments.

Moderator: Dr Michel Sidibe

Keynote: H.E. Professor Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON, Former Vice President of Nigeria

Participants

- Ministers of Finance
- Ministers of Health
- Parliamentarians
- African Union Commission (AUC)
- Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)
- African Medicines Agency (AMA)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Bank (WB)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD)
- Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Expected Outcomes

- Formation of a clearly defined early-adopter coalition (3–5 countries) with chosen reform track and identified entry point
- Explicit articulation of political and fiscal constraints, informing realistic implementation.
- Agreement on a sequenced reform approach, differentiated by country typology.
- Commitment to one concrete deliverable per country.

LUNCH BREAK – 12:30 – 14:00

Parallel: Pre-Scheduled Bilateral Matching Sessions | 12:40 – 15:00

While the Ministerial Roundtable is in closed session, ECA conducts 20-minute pre-scheduled bilateral meetings with potential donor governments and financing institutions.

14:00 – 15:40 SESSION II

From National Systems to Continental Scale: Digital Governance and the Regional Health Financing Architecture

Governance tools as investor confidence mechanisms · Live demonstration format

Health financing only scales when national credibility and regional integration come together. Digital governance systems provide transparency and accountability that make financing credible, while regional instruments enable these national systems to scale into continental markets and public goods. This session connects both, showing how data-driven governance enables investment, and how regional integration delivers scale

KEYNOTE | 14:00 – 14:20

Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director-General, Africa CDC

Theme: "From Digital Credibility to Continental Scale: Building Africa's Health Financing Architecture"

LIVE DASHBOARD DEMONSTRATION | 14:20 – 14:30

A fiscal-health simulator illustrating health expenditure tracking, budget scenarios, and equity gaps for an early-adopter country.

Scensetting: Dr. Michel Sidibe

Theme: Public Health, Powered by Trust: Data, Digital Tools and Accountability for Africa's Health Financing Future – change this to more of accountability

PANEL DISCUSSION | The Health Financing System Architecture: From Data to Markets | 14:30-15:40 Moderator: Pradeep Kakkattil, Co-Founder Health Innovation Exchange

Speakers

- **Ms. Njeri Jomo, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Officer, Jubilee "Cross-border insurance" Health Insurance.**
- **Prof. Nicaise Ndembi, Ph.D. Deputy Director General and Regional Director, Africa Regional Office, International Vaccine Institute (IVI)**
- **Dr. Magda Robalo, President and Co-founder, The Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD).**
- **Dr. Karim Bendhaou, Africa Engagement Committee Chair, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA)**
- **Dr Veronica Njambi Kihugi, Health Systems Insights**
- **Dr. Leopold Zekeng, Head of Developing Markets, Dure Technologies, and former UNAIDS Country Director, Nigeria.**
- **Dr. Ifedayo Morayo Adetifa, Chief Executive Officer, FIND**

Expected Outcomes

- Clear understanding among countries of what works in building credible, scalable health financing systems, based on expert evidence.
- Identification of priority entry points aligned with country contexts (governance, instruments, or regional mechanisms).
- Greater clarity on what to avoid, Alignment on practical steps and sequencing to operationalize reforms.
- Initial interest from countries to explore pilot applications with partner support.
- Shared understanding of a 12–24 month pathway from reform design to implementation.

15:40 – 17:30 SESSION III

Changing the Narrative: Health as Investment, Not Expenditure

Campaign launch · Narrative Charter · Parliamentary commitments

Technical reforms cannot be sustained without a corresponding shift in political and public discourse. This session repositions health financing in budget language and public communication, and formally launches the #InvestInHealthAfrica campaign continent-wide. The session is in two segments: the first reframes the political economy of health investment across Finance, Parliament, civil society, youth, and media; the second launches the campaign and Charter

Keynote - 15:40 – 15:50

- **Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
- **Theme: "Why Health Must Be Treated as Capital Investment"**

SEGMENT 1- Reframing Health as Investment: The Political Economy of Budget Decisions

15:50 – 16:50

Moderator: Omar Ben Yedder,

Speakers

- **Mr. Mohamed El Hejira, Chairperson, Public Finance Control and Governance Committee, House of Representatives, Kingdom of Morocco**
- **Dr. Richard Mihigo, Director, Programmatic and Strategic Engagement, GAVI**
- **Ms. Serah Makka-Ugbabe, Executive Director for Africa, The ONE Campaign**
- **Ms. Belinda Ngongo, Founder, Pan African Women in Health (PAWH)**
- **Dr Fungisai Nota, CEO, Navala Travel Health**
- **Mr. Peter Holland, Chief Executive Officer, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)**

Topics Covered

- Why finance ministries resist health expansion — and how macroeconomic framing changes the calculus.
- Parliamentary role in protecting health budgets across electoral cycles.
- The gender argument: closing the women's health gap adds US\$1 trillion/year to global GDP by 2040.
- Youth demographics as a health financing investment imperative.
- Communications strategies that have shifted budget discourse in comparable contexts.
- Narrative tracking and sentiment monitoring as accountability tools.

SEGMENT 2 — Campaign and Charter Launch

16:50 – 17:30

Moderator: Kimani Njogu, Senior Health Communication Expert, Founder, Twaweza Communications

1. Narrative framing — **ECA Communications** (3 min) - Why narrative change is necessary for fiscal reform.
2. Campaign launch — **ECA Communications** (6 min) -Presentation of campaign, charter, and dashboard.
3. Political commitments (**Ministers / Parliamentarians** (5 min) - Short endorsements and commitments.
4. Moderator closing (2 min)

17:30 – 18:00 CLOSING SEGMENT

From Dialogue to Implementation: Commitments and Next Steps

30 minutes — datable, assignable commitments

Moderator: Aboubakri Diaw, Chief of Staff, ECA

This final segment consolidates the outcomes of the Forum and formally converts the day’s dialogue into concrete commitments and implementation mechanisms.

Closing Remarks: Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary ECA

18:00 – 18:30 PRESS CONFERENCE + NETWORKING RECEPTION

Press Conference | 18:00 – 18:30

- ECA Executive Secretary and Partners

Networking Reception/Dinner | 20:00 – 22:00

Programme at a Glance

Time	Segment	Title	Key Deliverable
08:30–09:30	Opening	Health as Sovereign Investment	Formal launch of the initiative, opening of the Financing Commitment Register, and first public political and institutional financing signals.
09:30–12:30	Session I	From Fiscal Strategy to Innovative Financing	<p>Identification of reform-ready countries and agreement on a minimum sequencing logic linking fiscal embedding, efficiency and financing instruments.</p> <p>Shortlist of priority instruments for near-term action, with initial mapping of institutional roles, de-risking functions and implementation pathways.</p> <p>Public matching of 3–4 country–instrument pathways, with named partner roles and actionable next steps recorded in the Financing Commitment Register.</p>
12:30–14:00	Ministerial Roundtable & Lunch Break Movenpick Hotel	Strategic Alignment for Sustainable Health Financing	Formation of an early-adopter coalition and agreement on one concrete 90-day deliverable per participating country.
14:00–15:40	Session II	Digital Governance and Regional Health Architecture	Demonstration of the fiscal-health simulator, clearer consensus on digital accountability architecture, and initial interest in country pilots and regional scaling pathways.
15:40–17:30	Session III	Narrative Change	Launch of #InvestInHealthAfrica , unveiling of the Health Financing Narrative Charter, and public endorsement of a new political framing of health financing.
17:30–18:00	Closing	Commitments and Next Steps	Public confirmation of early-adopter countries, validation of the Technical Task Force and Steering Group, endorsement of the Closing Statement, and launch of the 30-day bilateral follow-up calendar.
18:00–18:30	Press Conference		
20:00 – 22:00	Dinner (Movenpick Hotel)		