



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



WHS
Regional
Meeting

NAIROBI | APRIL 27 - 29
2026

CONCEPT NOTE

World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026

Hosted by Aga Khan University-Kenya

Held on April 27-29, 2026, United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON)

1. Background

The World Health Summit (WHS) was founded in 2009, on the 300th anniversary of Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and is one of the world's leading strategic platforms for global health. It brings together stakeholders from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society from around the world to set the agenda for a healthier future. In the past, the Meeting was attended by the German Chancellors **Angela Merkel and Olaf Scholz, as well as by Bill Gates and Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** among many others. In addition to its global summit, WHS convenes Regional Meetings in different parts of the world to spotlight regional priorities, strengthen health diplomacy, and catalyse investment in health and development.

In 2026, the **World Health Summit Regional Meeting (WHSRM)** was hosted by the Aga Khan University-Kenya (AKU) in Nairobi. This marked the second time the WHSRM was held in East Africa and the second time on the African continent.

Relevant partners from Africa and internationally provided full support and were actively involved in the Meeting, including the **Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)** and the **World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO)**.

In this context, **Kenya's hosting of the 2026 Regional Meeting** presented an exceptional opportunity to reaffirm its leadership in health system transformation and universal health coverage, while amplifying Africa's collective voice in shaping global health policy. The meeting was held under the overarching theme **"Reimagining African Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence."**

2. The World Health Summit Regional Meetings

In the past years, WHS Regional Meetings have been held in Kampala (2021), Rome (2022), Washington D.C. (2023), Melbourne (2024), and New Delhi (2025).

Over three days, the **Regional Meeting in Nairobi** convened high-level plenary session, ministerial and leadership roundtables, keynote sessions, panel discussions, technical workshops, youth forums/community dialogues, networking sessions, side events, site visits and exhibitions. More than 2,000 participants from over 50 countries attended the Meeting, including Heads of State, Ministers of Health, Finance and Planning, senior officials from Africa CDC, WHO, and the World Bank, university leaders, innovators, philanthropic organizations, and civil society representatives.

4. Objectives of the Summit

- Focus on health priorities specific to the region, ensuring that local contexts and challenges are at the forefront of global health discussions.
- Foster collaboration and inclusive dialogue among health experts, policymakers, academic institutions, civil society, and the private sector.
- Highlight and address pressing public health challenges, including emerging threats and longstanding systemic issues.
- Promote innovative, evidence-based solutions and contribute to shaping global health policies through regionally informed perspectives.
- Influence health outcomes at local, regional, and global levels, amplifying Africa's voice in the global health agenda.

5. Themes and Format

The Summit took place over three days from **April 27-29, 2026**, under the theme of **"Reimagining African Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence"** with sub-themes of:

1. Pandemic Preparedness and Health Security
2. Climate Change, Environment and Health Resilience
3. Digital Health, AI and Technological Innovation
4. Health Workforce, Financing and Systems Building
5. Gender Equity, Youth Leadership and Social Accountability
6. Mental Health, Psychosocial Support and Well-being
7. Primary Healthcare, UHC, NCDs, IDs and Social Determinants of Health
8. Women, Adolescents, Child Health and Nutrition

In addition to the formats open to all participants, there were confidential formats, including Ministerial or Leadership Roundtables and other side events.

6. About The Aga Khan University-Kenya

The Aga Khan University-Kenya (AKU) is a private, not-for-profit international university and part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). In Kenya, AKU has been a partner in health and education for over two decades through its teaching hospital-the Aga Khan University Hospital, The Medical College, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Graduate School of Media and Communications, and The Institute for Human Development. AKU has been recognized by WHO and national governments for its contributions to pandemic response, health workforce development, and innovation. The AKU has a long-standing commitment to advancing health sciences and global health policy. The AKU is renowned for its pioneering research, innovative healthcare solutions, and dedicated partnerships with global health organizations. The AKU is both a model of academic excellence and an agent of socio-economic development. AKU has built most of its programmes on the foundation of collaborations with partner institutions across the globe. Many of collaborating partners and organizations are already members of the WHS, including Makerere University, Uganda.