

As Minister of Health and Welfare of Taiwan, I call on the World Health Organization to invite Taiwan to participate as an observer in the upcoming World Health Assembly. Health is a fundamental human right. It should never be subject to political conditions. The exclusion of Taiwan from the global health system not only undermines this principle, but also creates unnecessary gaps in global health preparedness and response.

Taiwan's 23 million people deserve representation. More importantly, the world deserves to benefit fully from Taiwan's contributions. Taiwan has both the capability and the willingness to contribute meaningfully to global health. Over the years, Taiwan has built a resilient healthcare system and achieved universal health coverage. We have demonstrated transparency, efficiency, and innovation in responding to public health challenges. From infectious disease control to chronic disease prevention, Taiwan has consistently delivered results that can serve as valuable references for the international community.

Today, I would like to highlight one specific area where Taiwan is making particularly significant contributions: smart healthcare and digital health innovation. Taiwan is at the forefront of integrating artificial intelligence into healthcare. AI is already being applied across our health system, for example, disease

detection and care, medical imaging interpretation, personalized health management, and even hospital management. Taiwan has established a smart healthcare system extending medical services from hospitals into communities and daily life, realizing holistic care of our citizens.

We have established a comprehensive governance framework to advance the development of clinical AI, fostered strong collaboration between government, academia, and industry, and translated innovation into real-world clinical applications. These technologies are not confined within Taiwan. We are actively sharing them with partners around the world through training programs, technical cooperation, and joint research initiatives.

Our experience shows that digital transformation can make healthcare systems more efficient, more accessible, and more resilient. At a time when countries are facing workforce shortages, aging populations, and rising healthcare costs, Taiwan stands ready to be a partner in advancing smart healthcare globally.

Our efforts do not stop at innovation alone. Here in Geneva, Taiwan is taking concrete action to engage with the international community. This year, we have significantly expanded our outreach by organizing a series of forums, demonstrating our commitment to contributing

through dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and partnership.

Allow me to briefly introduce these initiatives.

First, we are hosting a Digital Health Forum, focusing on Taiwan's advancements in AI-driven healthcare and smart medical technologies. This forum brings together experts to discuss how digital tools can transform healthcare delivery and improve outcomes worldwide.

Second, we are convening a Cancer Innovation Forum, where leading experts from Europe and Taiwan exchange insights on cancer control policies, innovative treatments, and integrated care models. Cancer remains a major global health challenge, and international collaboration is essential to accelerate progress.

Third, we are organizing a Global Hepatitis C Elimination Forum, where Taiwan shares its successful experience in advancing toward the elimination of hepatitis C. Taiwan has achieved the WHO's elimination targets ahead of schedule, and we are eager to share our strategies and lessons learned with the world.

Finally, in collaboration with Geneva University Hospitals, we are hosting a Health System Resilience Forum, focusing on strengthening healthcare systems and enhancing cross-border emergency response capabilities.

Recent global crises have underscored the importance of resilience, and this forum aims to foster deeper international cooperation in this critical area.

Through these forums, Taiwan is not only showcasing its achievements but also actively contributing to global discussions on key health priorities. We believe that meaningful participation is not defined solely by formal attendance, but by the ability to engage, to share, and to collaborate.

However, the continued exclusion of Taiwan from the WHA remains both unjustified and counterproductive. It deprives the international community of a reliable partner. It limits timely information sharing. And it weakens the collective capacity to respond to global health threats.

No country should be left behind. I therefore urge the WHO and all members of the international community to support Taiwan's participation in the WHA as an observer. Inclusion is not only a matter of fairness, but an important part of global health security. Taiwan stands ready to work together to build a more inclusive, more resilient, and more equitable global health system.