



CONFERENCE STATEMENT
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL COUNCILS OF AFRICA (AMCOA)
ON REGULATION IN THE ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
DURING ITS 26TH ANNUAL AMCOA CONFERENCE

WE the participants from the **twenty-two (22) AMCOA** member states and **six (6)** associate members, represented by senior officials of respective health regulatory bodies, gathered at the 26th Annual AMCOA Conference held at the **Avani Victoria Falls Resort in the Livingstone, Republic of Zambia** from **11th to 15th August, 2024**; affirm the urgent need to re-align our regulatory priorities towards facilitating and preparing for the proper use of technology, inclusive of, specifically, Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an enabler in the practice of medicine yielding to general improvement in healthcare service delivery in the following areas amongst others: diagnostics, treatment and patient management.

HAVING shared widely on various issues concerning the use of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare service delivery, there is consensus among members present that:

1. there is a need to develop guidelines and procedures for regulating use of AI in healthcare;
2. there is a need to ensure that AI technologies are developed and deployed in a manner that upholds safety, efficacy, privacy, and ethical standards; and
3. there is a need to standardize the regulation of the use of AI in healthcare to create a unified framework that ensures consistency, safety, and effectiveness across all.

THAT having agreed on the above matters, the Member States commit to the following:

1. Training and Research

- All AMCOA members commit to ensure that all healthcare professionals receive foundational education on AI technologies. This be supported by the development of comprehensive training programs covering theoretical and practical aspects of AI in healthcare.

2. Safety and Efficacy

- It is agreed that All AI systems intended for use in healthcare shall undergo rigorous validation procedures to ensure they meet safety and efficacy standards.

3. Data Privacy and Security

- It is agreed that member states will ensure that AI systems comply with applicable data protection laws, regulations and policies to safeguard patient information and that data handling practices protect patient privacy and rights.

4. Ethical Considerations

- It is agreed that all AI systems shall be designed to minimize and address biases to prevent discriminatory outcomes.
- AI systems shall support, rather than replace, patient decision-making. Member states commit to ensure that AI systems provide patients with relevant information and options, ensuring that they retain control over their healthcare choices.

5. Risk Management

- Risk management plans shall be developed to mitigate identified risks and ensure safe operation.

Signed on this **14th day of August, 2024** by the undersigned:

Prof. Joel Okullo
President
AMCOA