

Statement: WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific 77th session

Artificial intelligence

Agenda item: 9

Reference: [WPR/RC77/6](#)

Statement text:

Honourable chair, distinguished delegates,

The Union for International Cancer Control and our member organisations across the region thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement.

UICC welcomes the draft *Guidance for Responsible AI in Health* and commends WHO and Member States for taking a practical, health systems-centred approach. We particularly welcome the recognition that AI is not a solution in isolation, and its deployment must respond to well-researched and clearly defined health challenges. We also applaud the proposed risk-proportionate approach, recognising that the same tool may present very different benefits and risks depending on how and where it is deployed.

To this end, AI tools must be subject to appropriate clinical validation and ongoing monitoring, and be trained on datasets that adequately represent diverse populations. Without deliberate attention to equity, AI risks reinforcing existing disparities in access, outcomes and quality of care.

As the use of AI expands, robust governance will be essential. UICC strongly supports the emphasis on privacy, data governance and data sovereignty. For people living with and beyond cancer, the protection of sensitive health information and the right to be forgotten are critical to safeguarding future opportunities in employment, insurance and financial services.

We also welcome the guidance's recognition that patients, communities and civil society must be meaningfully involved in decisions about whether and where AI is introduced, the safeguards required, and how impacts on equity, trust, and rights are monitored over time. This participation will be essential to building confidence in both AI technologies and health systems more broadly.

Finally, we encourage Member States to work across government to address the growing threat of health misinformation and disinformation, including AI-generated content that undermines confidence in vaccination, disease prevention and evidence-based treatment. WHO can play an important role by supporting research, technical guidance and dialogues between AI companies, governments and communities.

Thank you.

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