



#Keynote Address

During her keynote today in Lusaka at the NEAPACOH meeting, our CEO Dorothy Juma delivered a clear message: **Africa must fast-track local pharmaceutical manufacturing to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC).**



By our CEO Dorothy Juma

She highlighted what's slowing progress: inadequate financing, fragmented policies, and over-reliance on donor-funded programmes, with high maternal mortality and adolescent birth rates as a warning sign of deeper system weaknesses.

Dorothy stressed that local production is also a resilience issue, helping countries withstand global supply chain shocks. She noted that the African Medicines Agency (AMA) can strengthen trust in locally produced medicines through regulatory and quality harmonisation across the region.

Bottom line: local production is not optional. It is essential for equitable, reliable health services and a stronger, more self-reliant Africa.





#NEAPACOH2026

Local pharmaceutical production is our sovereign pharmacy as Africa. It is our key to achieving universal health coverage. It is our key to survival. Let us build an Africa where no mother pays with her life because medicine was stuck on a ship halfway across the world. Let us produce our health here for our people

Dorothy Juma
CEO- MeTA Kenya



Key takeaways from the session

- UHC is being constrained by high adolescent birth rates and ongoing weaknesses in financing and policy implementation.
- Quality harmonisation through AMA is essential to build regional confidence and unlock cross-border access.
- Parliamentary leadership matters: legislation, budget scrutiny, and community engagement are critical for sustainable SRH and UHC progress.

Dorothy's call to action

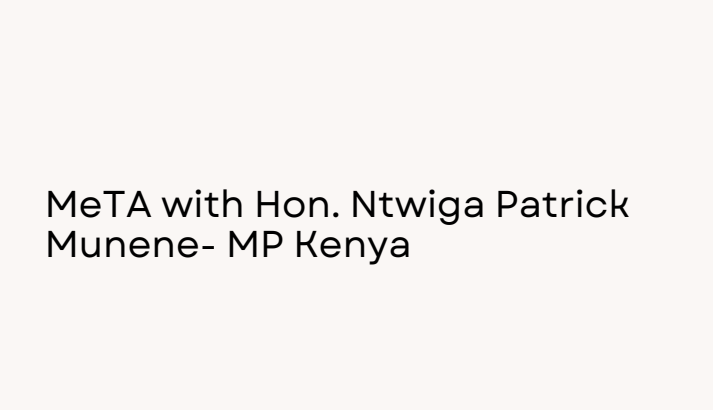
- Strengthen local pharmaceutical production to boost regional resilience, reduce dependence on external supply chains, and improve access to essential SRH commodities.
- Accelerate domestication of regional treaties and use parliamentary committees to align national laws with SRH standards.
- Push budget oversight toward the Abuja Declaration target of 15% allocation to health, including protecting dedicated health budget lines.
- Support regional market harmonisation and AfCFTA to create scale for local manufacturers and reduce cross-border trade barriers. Promote AMA-led regulatory harmonisation so medicines produced in one country are trusted and accepted across African markets.
- Advocate for fiscal incentives (such as zero-rating taxes on raw materials) to lower the cost of producing life-saving maternal and SRH commodities locally.
- Promote AMA-led regulatory harmonisation so medicines produced in one country are trusted and accepted across African markets.
- Advocate for fiscal incentives (such as zero-rating taxes on raw materials) to lower the cost of producing life-saving maternal and SRH commodities locally.



Guess who the Team Met?



MeTA with MedRap Zambia and other partners



MeTA with Hon. Ntwiga Patrick Munene- MP Kenya



MeTA with Members of Prliament Zambia and AIDS Healthcare Foundation



Funded by the European Union



ACCESS TO MEDICINES PLATFORM
"Health Systems Strengthening for Universal Health Coverage"

#MeTa Kenya at NEAPACOH

