

MEDICAL & DENTAL COUNCIL

"GUIDING THE PROFESSIONS, PROTECTING THE PUBLIC"

**ADDRESS BY THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL
OF GHANA AT THE OFFICIAL MEDIA LAUNCH OF THE 28TH ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL COUNCILS
OF AFRICA (AMCOA 2026) – 23RD JULY, 2026**

Honourable Members of the Press;

Chairman of the Medical and Dental Council;

Honourable Members of the Council;

Distinguished Guests;

Management and Staff of the Medical and Dental Council;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Medical and Dental Council of Ghana for the official media launch of the **28th Annual Scientific Conference of the Association of Medical Councils of Africa (AMCOA 2026)**.

Today marks the formal commencement of Ghana's preparations to host one of the most important gatherings of health professional regulators on the African continent. From **23rd to 27th August 2026 at the Movenpick Ambassador Hotel, Accra, Ghana** will welcome delegates from across Africa and beyond to Accra for a conference that will shape conversations on the future of healthcare regulation under the theme: ***"Responsive Regulation for Safer Communities towards Universal Health Coverage."***

This is not merely another conference. It is a continental platform for shaping the future of healthcare regulation in Africa.

WHAT IS AMCOA?

For many members of the public, AMCOA may be unfamiliar.

The **Association of Medical Councils of Africa (AMCOA)** is the continental association of health practitioner regulatory authorities, particularly Medical and Dental Councils. Its mission is to strengthen healthcare regulation across Africa by promoting high standards in medical education, professional registration, ethical practice, regulatory science and public protection through collaboration, harmonisation and shared learning among member countries.

Simply put, AMCOA exists to ensure that Africans can have greater confidence that those entrusted with their healthcare are competent, ethical and accountable.

WHY THIS CONFERENCE MATTERS

Healthcare is changing at an unprecedented pace.

Digital health technologies, artificial intelligence, cross-border mobility of health professionals, emerging diseases and humanitarian crises all demand regulatory systems that are responsive, innovative and fit for purpose.

The conference theme recognises that effective healthcare begins with effective regulation. Responsive regulation protects patients, strengthens professional standards, promotes accountability and ultimately contributes to safer communities and Universal Health Coverage.

The conference will provide a platform for regulators, policymakers, professional associations, academics and development partners to exchange ideas, share best practices and develop practical solutions to common challenges confronting healthcare regulation across Africa.

WHAT WILL THE CONFERENCE DISCUSS?

The conference will explore some of the most pressing issues confronting healthcare regulation today.

Among the key sub-themes are:

- **Inclusive Regulation**, which will examine how regulatory systems can be fair, transparent and responsive while ensuring that only competent and ethical healthcare professionals are licensed to practise.
- **Regulatory Science Programme Development and Roll-Out**, which focuses on strengthening the science of regulation itself by building the capacity of regulatory authorities through research, education, innovation and international collaboration.
- **African Healthcare Practitioner Regulatory Policy Outlook**, where regulators from across the continent will compare policy reforms, identify common challenges and explore opportunities for harmonising standards and facilitating professional mobility across Africa.
- **African Healthcare Regulatory Authorities' Data Exchange Infrastructure**, which will consider how technology and secure data-sharing can improve verification of practitioners, combat fraud and enhance public protection across borders.
- **Regulation in Humanitarian and Fragile Settings**, which will examine how regulatory authorities can continue to uphold patient safety and professional standards during conflicts, disasters and other emergencies.

Collectively, these discussions will help shape stronger, smarter and more responsive regulatory systems that protect patients while supporting the delivery of quality healthcare throughout Africa.

WHY GHANA?

Ghana is honoured to host this prestigious conference.

Our country has earned a reputation for democratic stability, hospitality and progressive health sector reforms in particular H.E. the President's Health Sector Reset Agenda focus on Health Sovereignty of the African continent. Through the Ministry of Health and the Medical and Dental Council, Ghana continues to strengthen professional regulation in ways that promote patient safety and quality healthcare.

Hosting AMCOA 2026 offers Ghana an opportunity to showcase these achievements while learning from the experiences of our colleagues across Africa.

WHO IS ATTENDING

Through the leadership of our host Health Minister, Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, the conference would be opened by his **H.E. the President of the Republic of Ghana John Dramani Mahama on Monday, 24th August, 2026 and closed on Wednesday, 26th August, 2026 by the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin; a historic first.**

The conference will also attract delegates from the various disciplines within the health fraternity, including but not limited to:

1. Parliament
2. Ministry of Health
3. Representatives of Health Ministries around the globe
4. Representatives of health regulatory authorities around the globe
5. Healthcare Practitioners
6. Professional Associations and Societies
7. Health Educational and Training institutions
8. Representatives of health insurance schemes
9. Government agencies who are involved in health workforce training and regulation
10. The entire health fraternity
11. Opinion Leaders and Health commentators globally
12. Students and Interns in the health environment
13. Public representatives
14. Media (local and international)

HEALTH REGULATORY AUTHORITIES THAT WILL BE ATTENDING

1. Allied Health Professions Council of Rwanda
2. Allied Health Professions Council of Uganda
3. Allied Health Professions Council Zimbabwe
4. American Osteopathic Association
5. Association of Medical Schools of Africa

6. Botswana Health Professions Council
7. Burkina Faso Medical Council
8. Burundi Medical Council
9. Dental Council of Mauritius
10. Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)
11. Eswatini Medical and Dental Council
12. Ethiopian Medical Association
13. Health Professions Authority of Zimbabwe
14. Health Professions Council of South Africa
15. Health Professions Council of Zambia
16. Health Professions Councils of Namibia
17. International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)
18. Kenya Health Professionals Oversight Authority
19. Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council
20. Liberia Medical and Dental Council
21. Medical & Dental Council of Ghana
22. Medical & Dental Council of Nigeria
23. Medical & Dental Council of Sierra Leone
24. Medical and Dental Council Gambia
25. Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Uganda
26. Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe
27. Medical Council of Malawi
28. Medical Council of Tanganyika (Tanzania)
29. Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Council Lesotho

30. National Health Professionals Council Somalia
31. Rwanda Medical and Dental Council
32. Seychelles Medical & Dental Council
33. South Sudan General Medical Council
34. Sudan Council
35. World Continuing Education Alliance

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

350 Participants

A CALL TO PRACTITIONERS AND REGULATORS

Today, I wish to extend an open invitation.

To our colleagues in Medical and Dental Councils and other health professional regulatory authorities across Africa—we look forward to welcoming you to Ghana.

To healthcare practitioners, professional associations, academics, researchers and students—this conference offers an exceptional opportunity to engage with leading experts, exchange ideas and contribute to shaping the future of healthcare regulation on our continent.

This conference belongs to all who are committed to strengthening healthcare systems in Africa.

The scientific sessions have been awarded a total of 13 credit points.

A CALL TO DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hosting a conference of this magnitude requires collaboration.

We therefore warmly invite corporate organisations, financial institutions, development partners, international agencies, professional bodies and philanthropic organisations to partner with us.

Supporting AMCOA 2026 is an investment in stronger healthcare systems, patient safety, professional excellence and Africa's journey towards Universal Health Coverage.

Your partnership will not only contribute to the success of the conference but will also demonstrate your commitment to improving healthcare across our continent.

IN SUMMARY

NAME OF EVENT:

Association of Medical Councils of Africa (AMCOA) - 28th Annual International Conference

HOST:

Medical and Dental Council Ghana under the leadership of the Hon. Minister of Health, **Mr. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh**

DATE:

23 – 27 August 2026

VENUE:

Movenpick Hotel, Accra

DAILY ACTIVITIES

- ☐ Monday, 24th August - Opening Ceremony, Keynote Address and Plenary Sessions
- ☐ Tuesday, 25th August – **Plenary Session and IAMRA & AMCOA (Historic) Collaborative Workshop**
- ☐ Wednesday, 26th August – Plenary Sessions, Closing Ceremony and Gala Dinner
- ☐ Thursday, 27th August – AMCOA Annual General Meeting

For Registration to attend the conference, visit our website: www.mdcghana.org and click on the “[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)” link

For further information on available sponsorship packages please contact:

- The Standards & Quality Assurance Department
- +233 203 168 188
- standards@mdc.gov.gh

A SPECIAL APPEAL TO THE MEDIA

To our friends in the media, today I make a special appeal.

We need your partnership.

Tell this story.

Tell Ghana that Africa is coming.

Tell Africa that Ghana is ready.

Help us create excitement about this conference. Let the conversations begin now.

Through your newspapers, television stations, radio programmes, online platforms and social media channels, help us amplify the

importance of healthcare regulation and why this conference matters to every citizen.

When the media speaks, the nation listens.

We therefore urge you to **make noise about AMCOA 2026**—not for the sake of publicity alone, but because stronger healthcare regulation ultimately means safer patients, stronger health systems and healthier communities.

APPRECIATION

Permit me to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Ghana H.E. the President of the Republic of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama and the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, Members of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health, the Ministry of Health, the Board of the Medical and Dental Council led by our distinguished Chairman, members of the Local Organising Committee, our sponsors:

- ***ECFMG – Intealth***
- ***National Health Issuance Authority***
- ***Entrance University of Health Sciences***
- ***Ghana Oil Company (GOIL)***
- **Ghana National Petroleum Company**

- *PharmAccess Ghana Limited*
- *AngloGold Ashanti Ghana*
- *International SOS*
- *Baldwin Medical School*
- *Life Healthcare Centre*
- *Ghana Medical Association*
- *Kofikrom Pharmacy Ltd*
- *Glico Healthcare*
- *the Media Houses* [Citi TV, Peace FM]

Health Partners and the dedicated staff of the Medical and Dental Council whose commitment continues to drive this important initiative.

CLOSING

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hosting the 28th Annual Scientific Conference of AMCOA is both an honour and a responsibility.

It presents Ghana with a unique opportunity to demonstrate leadership, deepen continental collaboration and contribute meaningfully to strengthening healthcare regulation throughout Africa.

On behalf of the Medical and Dental Council of Ghana, I invite all stakeholders—the media, healthcare practitioners, regulatory authorities, academia, development partners, sponsors and the Ghanaian public—to join us on this exciting journey as we prepare to welcome Africa to Ghana in August 2026.

Together, let us make AMCOA 2026 a landmark conference that advances patient safety, professional excellence and responsive regulation across our continent.

I thank you for your attention and look forward to your partnership.

God bless the Medical and Dental Council of Ghana.

God bless AMCOA.

And God bless our homeland Ghana.