

## **MESSAGE FROM H.E. AMB. MINATA SAMATE CESSOUMA**

### **Commissioner for Health African Union Commission**

Esteemed Colleagues and Partners,

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I extend my warmest greetings to all participants, attendees, and supporters of the African Viral Hepatitis Convention scheduled to convene in Cape Town in May 2024.

This meeting hosted by GHASSA, The Gastroenterology and Hepatology Association of SSA, will be held in conjunction with the International Hepato-Pancreatic - Biliary Association meeting, and will address the critical issue of deficiencies in viral hepatitis elimination and liver cancer treatment programs in Africa.

As an ambassador committed to the well-being and advancement of our continent, I am profoundly heartened by the initiative taken. This convention stands as a beacon of collaboration, fostering a platform where experts, policymakers, healthcare professionals, and advocates gather to share knowledge, innovative strategies, and experiences in combating this pressing health challenge.

The African Union remains resolute in its dedication to promoting health equity and accessibility across our diverse nations. Viral hepatitis and liver cancer, with its significant impact on public health, demands concerted efforts and collective action. This gathering presents an invaluable opportunity to not only raise awareness but to forge partnerships, strengthen health systems, and devise comprehensive solutions and support for those affected.

I encourage each participant to actively engage, exchange insights, and contribute to the formulation of actionable plans that will drive progress in the fight against viral hepatitis on our continent. Your dedication and expertise are crucial in shaping a healthier and more prosperous Africa for generations to come.

May this convention provide a platform for transformative change, fostering unity and solidarity in our common pursuit of eradicating viral hepatitis and liver cancer in Africa and ensuring the well-being of every African citizen.

With my utmost support and best wishes.

Warm regards,

H.E. Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma

Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development.

African Union Commission

