

Madam Chair,

At the outset, I take this opportunity and thank the Director General and his team for their efforts in preparing the report on Social Determinants of Health,

Meanwhile, in the interest of time and given that the Report itself meaningfully elaborates on the ugly sides of the unequal and inequitable world we live in and how this phenomenon has inequitably affected the poorest and those already in miserable conditions, I will not repeat it again.

Instead, in response to the questions presented to the EB, I would like to reiterate the message I had mentioned in our previous meetings,

We live in a political world where every action and reaction we undertake or experience is somehow connected to politics, in such an environment, the slogan of Health is not Politics does not seem relevant anymore especially in the context of our discussion today.

Our efforts to improve the social determinants of health in world where many are involved in mobilizing the potential excuses of conflict and war looks like pouring water in a fishing basket, this pathology does not only affect the global architecture of power and economy, but has infiltrated more deeply at national and subnational levels. Should someone does not agree with what I say, I would recommend to review the improvements observed between 2008 to 2022 in this report.

Hence, in response to the first question raised here, I believe that;

- We will not be able to achieve the targets for a more health friendly living condition for our people, unless we join forces to improve peace and put an end to the ever-expanding war. We should not only invest in reorienting the health systems to PHC as the path to UHC, but to help the politicians reorient the current global dis-order toward peace as the path to improved social determinants of health
- Nations especially in conflict zones will not experience better health and life conditions unless they take the lead of their social and political life by supporting trust worthy, competent and dedicated leaders instead of corrupt, extremist and uneducated local traitors. This will pave the ground for a context oriented, democratic and people centered systems that will invest in peace and improving social determinants of health instead of fueling conflict and corruption.
- Finally, Health systems are required to get out of their comfort zone, interact, cooperate and communicate with other sectors and factors affecting the social determinants of health to ensure cross sectoral understanding and synergetic momentum toward improvement of social determinants of health. This requires leadership, diplomacy and political skills developed in our health leaders.