



**European Union**  
**Statement**

**WHO**

**152<sup>nd</sup> Executive Board**

**(30 January - 7 February 2023)**

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**Item 12.3 - Global Health for Peace Initiative**

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**Geneva, 4 February 2023**

**WHO**

## **152<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Board**

### **Item 12.3 - Global Health for Peace Initiative**

#### **EU Statement**

Chair,

Director-General,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

This statement is made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina\* align themselves with this statement.

The EU welcomes the progress outlined in the report on GHPI. Health is a fundamental human right. Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security. Given the current unprecedented number of complex crises driven by conflict, insecurity, growing humanitarian needs and climate distress, it is of utmost importance to enhance understanding of the existing links between health and peace, in particular the direct and indirect impact of conflict on health outcomes. People and access to services must be at the heart

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\* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

of conflict prevention and resolution and we must take into account their need for social cohesion, trust and resilience.

We support that WHO acts as an influencer for health and peace in partnership with key actors, including non-state actors and the health sector, to address the health needs of people in conflict affected areas. Within the context of close cooperation and coordination with all partners we call for a clear division of labour in accordance with the differentiated mandates of involved actors.

We support the development of a road map to be finalized in 2023 and to be presented for consideration to the 76 WHA;

We would like to highlight that health interventions must be conflict-sensitive.

Conflict sensitivity and “do no harm” principles should be a general approach for all actions to be agreed to under the GHPI. As health interventions can also contribute to confidence building amongst communities and thus reinforce peace, for instance through addressing mental health and psychosocial support, we stress the importance of community involvement in the GHPI.

We are concerned by the low level of participation of member states in the first round of consultations that were concluded in October 2022. Only 14 member states responded to the survey on the draft road map. To ensure a successful outcome, we encourage the Secretariat to clearly indicate the objectives to be set out by the road map at a global level as well as its implementation methods and tools, ahead of the 2nd round of consultations planned for early 2023.

The road map needs to pave the way for a robust and realistic framework for action that allows countries to address the health and peace nexus in a context-specific manner. The upcoming consultations need to be inclusive, conducted in a transparent way and support the WHA to decide on the way forward, in order to

complement and add to the efforts of other humanitarian actors active in the field of humanitarian, development and peace-related work.

Finally, and without pre-empting the consultation process, the EU would welcome the WHO Secretariat to develop an indicative funding estimation for the road map and the strategic framework to be operationalized.

Thank you.