



### 12.3 Global Health for Peace Initiative

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Mr. Dr Kerstin Vesna Petric Cahir of the executive board

Honorable EB members

Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you very much for allowing me to intervene in the discussion of this important agenda item.

We in the Sultanate of Oman attach special importance to peace. We believe that peace is an essential condition for social and economic development both of which are prerequisites for health development and wellbeing.

Mr. chairman,

I must start by appraising the extensive work done by the WHO secretariat to follow up the decision of the World Health Assembly 75/24. We are pleased to see the proposed roadmap to implement GHPI in front of us. This is a very significant development. It is evidence that we are translating our words into action.

Colleagues,

Today, we have a historical opportunity to use health as a bridge to peace in a practical way. The GHPI is our tool to facilitate this task. It provides an entry point for discussing means of building peace. It focuses on reducing the gaps between the conflicting parties. It avails an approach to engage these parties in an open dialogue on different matters through health.



The strategic objectives, approaches, principles, and workstreams in this roadmap are made clear. The policy priorities and strategies identified under each workstream for a 5-year period to the WHO's secretariate are appropriate.

Oman gives its full support to these sections of the roadmap.

What seems to be missing is perhaps the need to identify similar priorities and strategies to be proposed to member states during the same period in order to complement efforts and maximize the impact.

Mr. chairman, colleagues

We would like to make sure that the essence of the GHPI is met and the essential peace gains such as equality, inclusiveness, participation, local ownership, local leadership are achieved. The context specificity in each country is to be considered. This will allow strengthening and empowering the vulnerable communities and hence will contribute to international solidarity, peace, stability, and security.

This has become part of the mandate of WHO. GHPI is its tool. Your support to this initiative is paving the road for WHO to meet its commitments and to demonstrate the importance of health in contributing to peace.

We would like to give health its wide-ranging role, and to use it more effectively as a true bridge to peace. I assure you that it is possible, but it will not happen without our commitment as Member States as well as partners, and related organizations to strengthen the links between health and peace.

As you are aware, many experiences had shown that the neutrality of health and the acceptability of health workers in situations of active conflict played effective role in preventing conflicts and promoting opportunities for peace. We need to build further on this for more reconciliation after conflict, more solidarity and stronger cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that no development can be achieved in any country without health, and no health gains can be achieved without peace. Let us make the process of building peace through health our entry point to mobilize all efforts and resources to make peace possible so that people's health condition and thus their quality of life improve.

Thanks Mr./Mrs. Chair