

Statement of the Slovak Republic

^{152th}Executive Board

**Agenda Item 23.2 - WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants,
2019–2023**

Slovakia welcomes the DG report on the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan promoting the health of refugees and migrants as well as the decision on the extension of the GAP to 2030 and strengthening the support and Secretariat resources to continue and expand the Secretariat's work on refugee and migrant health.

The WHO Global action plan promoting the health of refugees and migrants has made a significant, unmistakable contribution to global progress regarding the health needs and interests of refugees and migrants, enabling the delivery of necessary health and health care services to these populations.

The creation of WHO's Health and Migration Programme has allowed a more systematic approach to the refugee and migrant health not only in the context of the WHO GAP but also regarding to boost scaling up the Secretariat's capacity in this complex and sensitive global health priority. Slovakia is also pleased to see the strengthening of WHO's capacity in the field at regional and country levels.

Speaking about the refugee and migrant health, Slovakia would like to underline that it is necessary to shift the operational paradigm from short-term needs to a longer-term vision. In many countries, health policies frequently neglect the experience and health needs of refugees and migrants with lacking focus on inclusion within established health systems and responses.

Slovakia also acknowledges the Secretariat's work to promote the production of knowledge linked to action and strengthen its efforts to increase the capacity and sensitivity of health systems to meet the specific health needs of refugees and migrants. This also includes investing in integrating refugee and migrant health to global, regional and national initiatives, partnerships, and health forums.

Slovakia together with WHO EURO Regional Office is going to hold subregional meeting regarding the refugees from Ukraine at the end of the March in order to better understand the health challenges, measures, policies and contextualized technical tools. We also aim at the possible creation of stronger network for sustainable financing of health related to this vulnerable and traumatized population of refugees. Also, we would be very much interested in having clear sets of recommendations to prevent misuse of the health prevention and care in this field.