European Union
Statement

WHO
72\textsuperscript{nd} World Health Assembly
(20-28 May 2019)

Agenda item 18.1 – Rules of procedure

Geneva, 24 May 2019

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –
Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Director-General,
Colleagues,
I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova as well as Georgia align themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for presenting the proposed changes to the Rules of Procedures of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board that reflects the discussions we had during the last year.

---

* Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
We acknowledge the importance of these changes to improving the modus operandi of the WHO Governing Bodies and we support the proposed amendments.

We would like to express our particular support to the introducing of the changes reflecting the gender equality. We have always been strong supporters of that rule, being one of the fundamental principles observed and promoted by our governments. We believe that this principle should be reflected in the legal documents ruling this Organization, although for purely practical reasons it might be difficult to apply it in all linguistic versions. Taking this opportunity we would like to remind that we are also strong supporters of language equality within WHO.

Underlining the importance of good governance we are happy to see the introduction of incentive to table draft resolutions and decisions at least 15 days before the opening of the session of the Governing Body. As most the adopted resolutions do not relate to issues of utmost urgency and emergency, we believe this is a very good step forward in ensuring a sufficient time for all the delegations to prepare properly the positions on proposed documents.

We hope that the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedures will serve well to the ruling of the Organization.

We take this opportunity to call DG to renumber the Rules of Procedures without unnecessary delay.

Thank you.