Statement of Slovakia at the WHA72nd session

12.5. Patient safety – Global action on patient safety

Madame Chair,

Slovakia would like to align with EU statement.

Slovakia joined with honor this global initiative as one of the co-initiators and co-sponsors of the agenda item and draft resolution.

Last week Slovakia adopted new law, which incorporates the fundamental patient safety concepts and principles into the system of quality in health care sector. Clinical audit, quality indicators and cross-sectoral evaluation of compliance to the clinical and public health guidelines and standards of care with behavioral change are basic amendments.

We would like to highlight the important activity in the WHO European Region where Technical Consultation Meeting on Screening Programs was initiated in Copenhagen in February this year. This activity is response to growing trends towards more preventive programs and health checks. Policy makers, public, healthcare providers and health professionals often seem unaware of the potential risks and harms of proposed programs and ways of their implementation. Commitment of the countries to work towards Universal Health Coverage could potentially result in “epidemics” of new programs where supporting evidence and quality assurance is missing.

We should bear in mind that universal health coverage on global and national level cannot be achieved without patient safety and therefore we call for support for development of new education instruments for the community, healthcare-workers and patients themselves and also standardized patient safety policies and their integration into all fields of the health system.

Thank you Madam Chair.
to sexual violence in humanitarian and emergency settings,