Mr. Chairperson,

Slovakia wishes to present comment on point 21.3E.

Slovakia welcomes important activities since adoption of resolution WHA 70.13 on prevention of deafness and hearing loss, described in the progress report.

Highlighting Toolkits for ear and hearing care, such as the ear and hearing care situation analysis tool, and additional toolkits are being developed for release in 2019-2020.

Technical support is being provided to member states in development and implementation of national strategies for hearing care.

We appreciate The World Health Organization leadership, in establishing the World Hearing Forum in response to the resolution on prevention of deafness and hearing loss.

Slovakia actively participates in preventing and treating deafness and hearing loss via the International Federation of Otolaryngological Societies (IFOS), providing educational courses in the field of otology and audiology in order to develop surgical skills – f.e. otology courses in low and middle income countries.

In Slovakia this year World Hearing Day’s slogan “Check your hearing” in cooperation with the Open House activity in ENT department enabled the audiological testing to all interested persons. World hearing day has been promoted across whole Slovakia via regional newspapers, radio stations and TV broadcasters.

Slovakia strongly supports WHO activities towards Prevention of deafness and hearing loss as hearing loss is the most frequent avoidable disability which deserves our deep attention.

Thank you.