



**European Union
Statement**

WHO

76th World Health Assembly

(21-30 May 2022)

Item 16.1 - Well-being and health promotion

AND

16.3 - Social determinants of health

Geneva, 26 May 2023

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EU Grouped Statement

Chair,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina*, the potential candidate country Georgia, the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Armenia align themselves with this statement.

The EU thanks the secretariat for the **draft framework on wellbeing and health promotion**.

Well-being of our citizens is one of the EU's core principles, as recognized by the Treaty of the European Union. Promotion of health and wellbeing, ranging from activities by the health sector to addressing the determinants of health across all sectors, is a high priority for the EU and its Member States. The aim is to shift

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

from a mainly curative approach to a more balanced approach that encompasses promotion, prevention and reduction of disease prevalence on an equal footing.

The proposed WHO framework on wellbeing and health promotion is comprehensive. Drawing upon a multitude of WHO documents and expert agreements, it paints a picture of how we all desire our world to be – better for us and for future generations. This is a commendable intent and vision.

As the increasingly complex challenges faced by Member States can no longer be addressed with just traditional solutions, we urge WHO to shift the focus of its work from "what" to "how". This means identifying core issues to be addressed and advocating for evidence-based solutions.

We need a fresh, new and innovative vision for the promotion of health and wellbeing, by and beyond the health systems.

Coming to **Agenda Item 16.3 Social Determinants of Health**, the EU acknowledges WHO's work on social determinants of health. Addressing social determinants of health is a duty of all sectors, in line with the Health in All Policies approach. It is also critical in reducing health inequity which is a prerequisite for the world in reaching the triple billion targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We thank the WHO for the just published Operational Framework for Monitoring Social Determinates of Health Equity. We welcome its links to the Sustainable Development Goals and other cross-sectoral efforts, as multi-sectoral governance and collaboration are central to addressing social determinants of health equity.

We call on Member States to work with the WHO in implementing this framework. We call on the WHO to continue to provide the necessary technical support to Member States.

We look forward to receiving the World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity for WHA77

The EU welcomes the three resolutions for adoption under this agenda item which demonstrate the wide scope and role of social determinants, including in eliminating structural discrimination in societies. We thank the respective Member States for taking the lead on these resolutions.

The EU cosponsored first ever WHA resolution on Accelerated Action on Global Drowning Prevention bringing a coordinated approach in addressing the overlooked global burden of drowning.

The EU cosponsored first ever WHA resolution on the Health of Indigenous People. We look forward to the Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples at the 79th WHA.

The EU cosponsored resolution on the Impact of Chemicals, Waste and Pollution on Human Health. We highlight the need for WHO's involvement in the International Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution.

Thank you.