

76th World Health Assembly, 21-30 May 2022
High-Level Meeting
“Saving Lives, Driving Health for All”

**Address by the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations in
Geneva, Ambassador Alexandros Papaioannou**

Thank you, Mr President.

This year’s World Health Assembly, now that the pandemic is no longer an emergency, constitutes an opportunity to address ways of tackling challenges common to all humanity.

Now, more than ever, it is more than evident that the imperative for global cooperation and solidarity to address health emergencies is vital.

I would like to express our deep appreciation for the WHO’s tireless efforts to save lives and support those in need worldwide.

Since the past year, we are experiencing crises, which, no matter how “regional” they can be described, their consequences are global.

They affect directly human lives all over the world.

Within this context, the ongoing aggression of Russia against Ukraine and the numerous attacks on health care facilities has resulted to widespread destruction of infrastructure, including hospitals.

Greece remains committed to reconstruct what has been destroyed.

Such as the maternity hospital in Mariupol, demonstrating our commitment to supporting and ensuring safe and dignified childbirth for women.

Because, protecting women and children is one of our top priorities.

Not just in Ukraine, but anywhere there is a need.

Within the resource constraints that we have, we will continue to provide our support in all continents.

During the pandemic, Greece, either bilaterally or through covax has donated more than 7 million doses of vaccines to address COVID 19.

For a population of almost 10 million, this was a significant contribution.

In the same spirit, Greece has consistently shown solidarity in times of humanitarian crisis or natural disasters.

After the catastrophic earthquake disaster in Türkiye and Syria, Greece mobilized her resources and provided immediate aid to affected regions and support to those impacted.

Domestically, Greece has always been offering assistance and resources to populations in vulnerable situations.

Moreover, Greece ratified the Agreement on the establishment of a Quality of Children and Adolescents Mental Health Care Programme.

As well as the Agreement on the establishment of a sub-office on Quality of Care and Patient Safety of WHO Country Office in Athens.

Excellencies,

Health, recognized as a fundamental human right and protected under the article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, should be enjoyed by every individual.

Therefore, we must invest in more resilient healthcare systems, focusing on individuals' and communities' well-being, especially in times of crises and challenges.

Establishing robust healthcare systems, early detection and rapid response to emerging health threats.

However, none of these efforts can succeed without international cooperation and solidarity.

It is crucial that we strengthen partnerships and share knowledge and resources.

Let's build a healthier, more equitable and sustainable future for all.

Thank you.