

## Explanation of National Position by Hungary

WHA 76

21-30 May 2023

Decision: *'Extension of the WHO Global Action Plan on Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants'*

Mr/Madam Chair,

- Hungary hereby presents the explanation of its national position regarding the Decision: *'Extension of the WHO Global Action Plan on Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants'* (hereinafter: decision).
- Regarding the physical and mental health well-being of migrants (para 3), we would like to reiterate the Hungarian position. The extension of health care to migrants was evaluated by our Government as negative discrimination against our own citizens, considering that Hungarian citizens are burdened with the obligation to pay contributions in order to obtain coverage under the national health care system.
- We are highly concerned about the reference made to the well-being and healthcare of migrants in the decision because we consider it as an additional pull factor. We would propose the consideration of the larger context for this issue.
- It is regrettable that in the paragraph PP4, the decision references not only on the Third, Fifth and Tenth Sustainable Development Goals (SDG3, 5 and 10) but also the objectives of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), neither of which has been accepted by Hungary. The Hungarian position is clear and consistent: any reference to the GCM and GCR is unacceptable for us. Therefore, Hungary disassociates from paragraphs containing references to these.
- The Government of Hungary had expressed its position on GCM several times: Migration is not a fundamental right, so we cannot accept such references at all.
- Since the decision references to the paragraph 71 of the Universal Health Coverage political declaration (hereinafter: UHC political declaration), we would like to draw the attention to the following.
- During the negotiations of the UHC political declaration, Hungary had several reservations and we have repeatedly expressed our doubts. In the spirit of compromise and constructiveness, Hungary decided not to block the adoption of the UHC political declaration.
- Hungary maintains its previous position regarding the paragraphs 70 and 71 of UHC political declaration, which applies to any document referencing to these paragraphs. Hereby we would like to reiterate the Hungarian position regarding the UHC political declaration.
- We believe that healthy citizens and a healthy workforce are decisive factors for economic growth and competitiveness. The Fundamental Law of Hungary (our

Constitution) states that everyone has the right to physical and mental health and the State has to do its utmost to ensure the highest standard health care for its citizens.

- Hungary is on the view that the UHC political declaration, like any other similar type of document, should respect national competences and the principle of sovereignty, as each state has the right to formulate and decide the structure of their national health policy.
- We note that the paragraph OP2.1 of the decision, which references the paragraph 71 of the UHC political declaration, contains clear references to refugees and migrants, and since these groups are listed in these paragraphs among the most vulnerable social groups, logically and by definition in this case the word „migrants” means “illegal migrants”.
- We do not agree with the approach that everyone, including illegal migrants is entitled to enjoy the same quality of health care regardless of their insurance or healthcare coverage status. We cannot adopt any legislation nor decision that would discriminate our own citizens in this regard – by providing migrants healthcare services without prejudice to their legal status and national health insurance coverage.
- Furthermore, we would like to highlight the fact that the operation and finances of national healthcare systems falls under respective national competences, therefore we would like to distance ourselves from paragraph OP2.2.
- Lastly, but most importantly, a legal distinction must be made between the concepts of legal and illegal migration. The range of healthcare services that can be provided to persons belonging to each category is diverse and has to be differentiated.