

*General Discussion (Item
3)*

Statement by

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76th World Health Assembly

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Theme of discussion: "WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all"

President, Director-General, Delegates.

It is an honor to address you on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the World Health Organization. As we commemorate this milestone, we acknowledge the progress made in advancing global health, while also recognizing the challenges that lie ahead.

Iceland aligns itself with the statement made by Sweden on behalf of the European Union. We strongly condemn the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the resulting health emergency. This was also clearly stated at the summit of the Council of Europe that was held in Iceland last week. The deliberate attacks on health facilities and the devastating consequences on the health and well-being of the Ukrainian people are of deep concern. We stand

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in full solidarity with Ukraine and its people, and we will continue to support them.

Iceland commends the World Health Organization for its dedication to improving global health and addressing neurological disorders. This is in line with the "Leave no one behind" principle that is central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We support the Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders 2022-2031, recognizing the urgent need for comprehensive, integrated, and equitable care for those affected. We encourage WHO to ensure the successful implementation of this plan and reduce the burden of neurological disorders worldwide.

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past 75 years, it is imperative that we reinforce our commitment to strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage.

The theme of this year's general debate serves as a reminder of the profound impact of the World Health Organization in shaping

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global health. However, there is still much work to be done. We must recognize the importance of health security and emergency preparedness to mitigate the impact of future pandemics and health crises. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in our global health infrastructure, and we must learn from this experience to better prepare for future health emergencies.

We recognize the commitment of the WHO in supporting member states and promoting the right to health and well being in a complex world. Sexual and reproductive health must be prioritized to ensure the well-being and rights of all individuals.

In conclusion, Iceland is committed to working collaboratively with the World Health Organization and all member states to save lives, strengthen health systems, and build a healthier, more resilient future.

Thank you.

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