

Mr. President, Esteemed Director-General, Excellencies

## **NORTH MACEDONIA FULLY ALIGNS WITH THE STATEMENT DELIVERED BY SWEDEN ON BEHALF OF EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

This year, as part of the theme: “Saving lives, driving health for all”, we come together to reaffirm our commitment to the noble cause of ensuring the wellbeing and health of every individual on this planet.

First and foremost, let us take a moment to reflect on the remarkable journey of the World Health Organization as we celebrate its 75th anniversary. For three-quarters of a century, the WHO has been at the forefront of global health, striving tirelessly to protect lives, prevent diseases, and promote the highest standard of health for all people. It is an occasion to acknowledge and commend the invaluable contributions made by the WHO in advancing health on a global scale.

Moreover, I would like to express our profound gratitude to the WHO for its enduring partnership with North Macedonia. Over the years, our collaboration has yielded remarkable results in strengthening our healthcare system, improving access to quality healthcare, and enhancing public health initiatives. The technical expertise, capacity building programs, and policy guidance provided by the WHO have played a pivotal role in empowering our nation to address emerging health challenges and enhance the overall well-being of our citizens.

In the spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility, it is incumbent upon us to acknowledge and address the pressing needs of our fellow member state, Ukraine. We strongly condemn the Russian Federation continued and widespread attacks on health care facilities, civilians and civilian infrastructure. North Macedonia stands united with Ukraine, recognizing the immense challenges it faces in its healthcare system

due to ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises. By standing together, we can assist Ukraine in rebuilding its healthcare infrastructure, strengthening health systems, and ensuring access to quality healthcare services for all Ukrainians.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme of this year's World Health Assembly resonates deeply within our hearts and calls upon us to take decisive action. We must reaffirm our commitment to achieving universal health coverage, ensuring access to essential health services, and addressing the underlying determinants of health, including poverty, inequality, and social injustice.

North Macedonia remains firmly committed to working hand in hand with the WHO and fellow member states to realize our shared vision of health for all. Together, we can bridge the gaps, break down barriers, and build resilient healthcare systems that leave no one behind. By investing in primary healthcare, promoting health equity, and strengthening health systems, we can save lives and empower communities to thrive.

In conclusion, let us seize this moment to renew our dedication to the principles enshrined in the WHO's constitution. Let us forge ahead with unwavering resolve, innovation, and collaboration, to drive health for all and create a better future for generations to come.

I thank you!