



**Statement of the Republic of Slovenia  
76<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Health Assembly  
21–30 May 2023**

**Agenda Item 3: “Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General”**

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen,

Slovenia aligns itself with the Statement of the EU and its Member States.

Dear Director General,

WHO has always played a pivotal role in advancing global health and it has contributed to some of the greatest achievements in human history. This inspires us with hope that we will find solutions for the challenges of today and those to come.

The ongoing health emergencies have already forced us to strengthen global cooperation and to start processes to further improve our preparedness and response. We are proud of our organization and commend you, Dr Tedros, and your entire team for tireless efforts in responding to permanent crises.

We understand that we are asking a lot. We want WHO to be the central organization in global health, evidence-based, value-driven, transparent, and accountable. While maintaining the normative function of WHO we want to improve implementation of agreed decisions and are about to adopt a budget proposal in which most of the funding is allocated to country work.

This is the right move! However, it is important to understand that in implementing it is us, member states, walking the talk. Investments will be needed and political will to, for example, adopt evidence-based policies such as the “best buys”.

The covid pandemic has generated a lot of political attention for health. Investments in health and economy of wellbeing have been discussed at the highest economic fora. Promising, but the answers to challenges such as how to ensure and retain health workforce, are still to be found. More than 70% of the workforce in health are women, we must involve them better in decision making and consider their needs as mothers and carers in the families. In this regard the Bucharest declaration was an important milestone.

In developing innovative solutions and good practices, we see great potential in WHO initiatives such as Small Countries Initiatives and South-Eastern European Health Network, where countries with similar interests seek solutions together.

When it comes to identifying and addressing the needs of those most vulnerable, involving, and empowering civil society is key. We are very appreciative, Dr Tedros, to the work done in social participation and youth involvement.

Let me conclude by congratulating WHO on its 75th anniversary and expressing our gratitude for its leadership and for giving us opportunity to work together towards a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Thank you!