

Honorable Chair,

Distinguished Participants,

Let me join others in congratulating the 75th anniversary of the organization.

In 75 years, WHO has improved its efficiency, transparency and accountability in the better service of global health. We are confident that the period ahead will deliver further progress.

In 75 years, the relation between Türkiye and the Organization has both enhanced and expanded. We became host to WHO presences and an active contributor to its work.

We also benefitted from this partnership. In this regard, allow me to express our appreciation to the Organization and its members for the solidarity and support extended to us following the earthquakes.

There are lessons to take from these earthquakes also for the international community. Now we should see more clearly the deficiencies and the advantages of our collective response mechanism. Here, the potential of Emergency Medical Teams deserves a separate and positive reference.

Distinguished Participants,

The COVID-19 is no longer a global health emergency. But we cannot lose momentum on the revision of International Health Regulations, the INB negotiations and the new budget formation. The Assembly should consolidate the political commitments of the member states to address the gaps of the global system. It should also underline the responsibility of the Secretariat in translating these commitments into consensual outcomes.

Yet, our focus on this area should not come at the expense of other important matters such as Non-Communicable Diseases or tobacco control.

Esteemed Participants,

Lately, the work of our Organization has become more exposed to the politics. In some cases, they have penetrated in our work. In others, the Organization has sought for a political niche to better implement its mandate. As a result, we face more polarization.

Türkiye is among those who value the consensus culture of the Organization as well as the guiding principles of its Constitution for the moral and political authority of the Organization rest upon them.

Thank you.