



**European Union  
Statement**

**WHO**

**142<sup>nd</sup> Executive Board**

**(22 January – 27 January 2018)**

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**Item 2 - Dialogue with the Director General**

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**Geneva, 22 January 2018**

**WHO**  
**142<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Board**  
**(22 January -27 January 2018)**

**Item 2 - Dialogue with the Director General**

**EU Statement**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Director-General,  
Members of the Executive Board,  
Colleagues,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The Candidate Countries Turkey, Montenegro<sup>\*</sup>, and Albania<sup>\*</sup> the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

Dr. Tedros, as the Director-General of the WHO, you have prominently envisioned a world in which everyone can live healthy, productive lives, regardless of who they are or where they live. It reads as a simple message, but it carries enormous work and responsibility: for you, for the organization, for the Member States, as well as for our partners.

Through the adoption of the Agenda 2030, health is finally recognised as a distinct but at the same time integral element of sustainable development. This is a major opportunity to prove both the overall importance of health to societies and that health can indeed be improved. But, it is also a challenge: our action must assure that we succeed in achieving the improvement of people's health. We need to start acting urgently to achieve the SDGs, even knowing that the reporting horizon is at about 10 years from now.

Emphasis needs to be put on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, giving people the opportunity to live not just long, but healthy lives. This requires a multi-sectorial approach to health through health promotion, disease prevention, addressing the broad

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<sup>\*</sup> Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

determinants of health and respecting human rights, enabling societies to become healthier and people to make more healthy choices. The world needs a global health organization rather than a health service organization.

The GPW13 for the years 2019-2023 puts the WHO in front as a leader in global health, tasked to lead and coordinate international health efforts and supporting governments in implementing the best possible policies. In this regard, it is vital that WHO works well in coordination with the rest of the UN system and national and international partners. We wish to see WHO more proactively take the lead and provide opportunities for relevant partners to come together.

The EU supports the ambition to advocate for health at the highest political level as expressed by the DG. At the same time, it is imperative that WHO always stands up for facts and evidence based knowledge, and must never allow its normative function to become politicized.

Having said that, we have concerns about various items but will concentrate on the following key topics.

To carry out the role of global leader in health and to implement the GPW13, the Director-General has proposed a significant increase in the budget envelope. It will be a major challenge for WHO to compete with other global actors for resources for the implementation of the Agenda 2030. In this regard, the political trust in WHO needs to be significantly strengthened.

- In order to do so, which actions do you foresee in the organization to further strengthen the accountability and evaluation functions?
- We would welcome the WHO to adhere to UN best practices for open, transparent and merit-based recruitment. How do you intend to guarantee that organizational changes, including staff appointments, will be based on a more transparent and competitive process?

- Finally, welcoming your ambition to drive impact in every country and to deliver on the “triple billion” target: can you elaborate more on how do you intend to strengthen the country offices: a) which revised tasks and roles do you foresee; b) what is your vision on measuring country offices’ performance; c) how do you intend to enhance the accountability framework, including the Financial Portal to show resources allocated to country offices, their annual reporting and their results?

Thank you.