The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement delivered by Germany on behalf of the EU and its Member States and wishes to echo the condolences for the loss of dr. Peter Salama and recognize the efforts made regarding Corona.

The Netherlands continues to be a strong supporter of WHO as a cornerstone in the advancement of global public health and we value our fruitful cooperation. Last year, we welcomed a large community of experts, researchers and policy makers to Leiden to an Anti-microbial resistance conference and to Amsterdam to push the agenda on mental health in emergency settings.

Later this month the world will commemorate the 15th anniversary of the entering into force of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, one of the major success stories of WHO. It has proven to be a very useful instrument, but the fight has not ended, and we cannot remain silent about the devastating toll of the tobacco epidemic, killing more than 8 million people each year.

The Netherlands is very committed to fight this epidemic, both at national and international level. We are therefore proud to announce that the 9th FCTC Conference of the Parties will be held in The Hague, Netherlands, from 9-14 November this year, to be followed by the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products from 16-18 November.

We hope to welcome you all to The Hague to take the next step in the fight against tobacco.

Thank you