13. Neglected tropical diseases

Madam Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement of the EU under agenda item 13 and to the EU co-sponsorship of draft decision on NTDs.

Based on our scientific and practical experience in the field of developing aid in affected tropical and subtropical regions where the infections are widely situated, we would like to highlight a real need due to the epidemiological factors and climate change to re-evaluate potential burden of some groups of NTDs also out of historical borders.

Furthermore, with increasing numbers of immunocompromised (HIV, cancer survivors, transplanted patients) vulnerable populations and those living in conflicts facing to the poverty, inequality and special environmental conditions, combined with the increase in life expectancy, increased migration and travel it is recommended to discuss NTDs worldwide.

With regard to point 6 of the Report, Slovakia welcomes this ongoing initiative and supports the update of road map on NTDs in collaboration with multiple partners which gives hope to address improving vector control and access to diagnostics and services (including access to drugs for all) with decrease devastating impact of unrecognized, underestimated and chronic infections in children and other groups of people in context of challenges mentioned above.

Thank you, Chair