Statement of Slovakia at the EB146\textsuperscript{h} session

Geneva, 3 -8 February 2020

9. Accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem

Thank you Mr Chair,

Slovakia aligns with the EU statement on this agenda point. We would like to thank for the ongoing efforts and highlight few challenging fields of cooperation with WHO that deserve attention.

With regard to the point 4 of the report on data strengthening and point 10 strategic action, the Minister of Health in Slovakia, has introduced national initiative “Year of Prevention ”, with the aim to improve citizens' awareness of prevention, including the importance of population - based screening and free HPV vaccination for both, girls and boys .

Moreover, we strongly support to adopt evidence into the practice, which will address prevention of cervical cancer through HPV vaccination not only for girls but also for boys as well.

Sexual activity of todays’ young people begins in earlier age and is significantly higher in comparison to older people. Public health professionals within the Slovak Republic deliver many lectures to primary school students as well as to secondary school students focusing on issues related to sexual behavior and family planning. The lectures are focused on the risks of sexually transmitted diseases and the importance of preventive examinations.

The organization “Healthy Regions“ implements and develops temporary compensatory measures in the area of health.

As a part of improving access to sexual and reproductive health care services for women from vulnerable minorities, we would like to highlight good practice of the project Healthy communities in Slovakia. Health mediators who are coming from vulnerable minorities receive continuously training to identify special needs with regard to the intercultural aspects of access and utilization of health care services.

Thank you for your attention.