



**European Union**  
**Statement**

**WHO**

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

**(30 January - 7 February 2023)**

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**Item 12.2 - WHO's work in health emergencies: Implementation of  
resolution WHA75.11 (2022)**

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**Geneva, 4 February 2023**

**WHO**

## **152<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Board**

### **Item 12.2 - WHO's work in health emergencies: Implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022)**

#### **EU Statement**

Chair,

Director-General,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

This statement is made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina\* align themselves with this statement.

Before addressing the implementation of resolution WHA75.11, let me begin by expressing our appreciation for WHO's work in responding to 50 emergencies worldwide, targeting 90 million people in 29 countries. WHO's coordination and collaboration with 900 national and international partners to achieve better health outcomes is highly valued.

Almost one year has passed since the start of Russia's unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter and undermines international security and stability. We

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\* North Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

condemn Russia's aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms and express full solidarity with Ukraine and its people. We also stress that Russia at always must respect its responsibilities under international humanitarian law.

The health consequences of the Russian aggression are severe. To date nearly 750 attacks on health care have been confirmed. Meanwhile, the disruption of access to health systems, the delivery of critical health care services, medicines and treatment, continues to the great detriment of those most in need. The DG-report further concludes that public health risks are pertinent also beyond Ukraine and refugee-receiving countries. Our collective efforts moving forward must therefore reflect the magnitude and global scale of this crisis.

We recognise the Director General's efforts to report back on key issues outlined in the resolution. The EU and its Member States shares the concerns regarding the challenges to the response as identified in the report, including on staffing. We encourage the WHO to take further action to mitigate the negative health and humanitarian impacts of this war. It includes continued efforts to ensure access to basic health and care services, mental health and psychosocial support services, routine vaccination and treatments, as well as access to services related to gender-based violence and support for survivors. Efforts to address prevention and response to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment must be strengthened. We would also welcome further reporting on measures taken to address the deterioration of sexual and reproductive health, as well as maternal and child health.

Securing financial resources is key and we note that resource mobilisation for the health response has been successful in 2022. We hope this will continue and to this end we stand ready to do our part.

Finally, the situation in Ukraine is changing on a daily basis. We would therefore like to request the secretariat to prepare an updated implementation report of resolution WHA75.11, to be presented before WHA76, as well as a member state briefing.

I thank you.