

**WHO 152<sup>nd</sup> Session of Executive Board**

**Item 12.3. Global Health for Peace Initiative**

**Statement of Finland**

Thank you Chair,

Finland aligns herself with the EU statement delivered by Denmark.

Finland welcomes WHO's global initiative on health for peace. Peace contributes to conducive environment for wellbeing and to the fulfillment of the Right to Health. Reversely, resilient health systems reinforce preparedness and response to crises and the "humanitarian-development-peace nexus", creating trust in societies.

Finland is concerned by the alarmingly increasing deliberate attacks on health care providers in conflicts and fragile contexts. It is also a fact that women and girls often bear the heaviest burden in crises and conflicts.

It is important to mainstream peace and conflict-sensitivity to health programs, and to create platforms for discussion. Therefore, we must put people, in particular, persons living in vulnerable situations at the center. In addition, participation of women in decision-making and peace building processes is fundamental to leaving no one behind.

Finland is looking forward to the findings of the Lancet-SIGHT Commission, chaired by President Tarja Halonen. The Commission's insights on the contribution of peace to improved health equity and gender equality will be valuable in the development of the Health for Peace strategic framework.

Thank you.