

Innlegg PB 20.2. EB152

- I would like to start by recognizing this program budget historical. It includes the first tranche of increase of the assessed contributions. The WHA75 decision and member states commitment to sustainably finance the organization is an important step towards a democratically funded, more efficient and effective WHO. necessary to achieve the triple billion goals.
- Norway welcomes the revised format of the budget, and we look forward to having a closer look at the budget portal. We welcome the five priorities proposed to accelerate the GPW13, with the focus on health system strengthening, universal health coverage and pandemic preparedness and response.
- We support the focus on impact at country level to strengthen health systems in line with national priorities. However, increased country focus is dependent on strong normative and leadership functions anchored at HQ. These core functions, as well as enabling functions, need to be adequately resourced. What sets WHO apart is its normative function.
- The connection between priorities in the program budget and financing must be improved, including more flexible and predictable funds, accompanied by significant steps towards more efficiency, transparency, and accountability. From 2023, more than a third of Norway's voluntary contributions will be fully flexible. The remaining two-thirds is thematic funding. We would encourage other member states to also increase the flexibility of their funding.