

***Statement of the Slovak Republic***

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

***Agenda Item 15 - Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches***

Madam Chair,

Slovakia welcomes the impactful work in this very important and emotional field. Each of us who has been working or worked with the abused, neglect, maltreated or neglected children knows how heavy it is, not only from the acute intervention perspective but also on the long run, when appropriate services are not in place. Therefore, Slovakia welcomes this work and would like to echo the US, Maldives and other MSs, which mentioned that more involvement of WHO Regional and Country offices is needed also in relation to the multisectoral and multistakeholder collaboration regarding the improvement in scaling up the services. Trauma-informed holistic services centered at one place, easily accessible with zero stigma and secondary unsafe victimization with evidence-based psychotherapy and trauma incidence reduction are crucial when helping the victims of child's violence. We have to bear in mind that also siblings or other family members are traumatized especially when living in toxic environment. Based on the evidence e.g. ACE study, we are aware of chronic and life-lasting implications including chronic NCDs but also communicable diseases and social isolation with continuous violence and transgeneration transmitted trauma. More technical guidance based on behavioral, cultural specifics and rehabilitation services is needed and, in this respect, we see a great potential of WHO when it comes to process facilitation on local level.