

Statement of the Slovak Republic
152th Executive Board

Agenda Item 17 - The highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities

Dear Madam Chair,

I will try to be brief and focused on the guiding questions. Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the EU and its Member States. Slovakia welcomes the report and appreciates the work of all relevant WHO bodies, MSs and partners on this important field.

In general, we would very much welcome that an appropriate scientific language and terminology constitutes an integral part of the reports and resolutions. In this report, besides the scoping reviews, we are missing systematic reviews as background for actions with clinical questions.

Explanation: A scoping review seeks to present an overview of a potentially large and diverse body of literature pertaining to a broad topic. A systematic review attempts to collate empirical evidence from a relatively smaller number of studies pertaining to a focused research question.

The specific objectives of the report focusing on health equity for persons with disability in the health sector and evidence of health inequities and country experiences should not only represent a tool for measuring the gaps, but also the opportunity to improve in collaboration with WHO technical support.

Madam Chair, we expect strengthening the countries through voluntary assessments of the multisectoral inclusive policies, including technological support and assistance, and integrative care including long term care for people living with disabilities. We appreciate also part of the evidence-based recommendations, however, in the next report, we would welcome to see also re-analysed instruments as ICF implementation, especially edited version for children and adolescents, and also early intervention services coverage, policies and indicators, including access to rehabilitation complex services, trainings or educational tools for parents and caregivers as integral part of these services.

We highly recommend to consider preparing a joint framework for reporting cross cutting services as well as for reporting the indicators for disabilities, namely primary care, UHC, SDGs, social determinants of health, patient safety, violence related to the disabled, NCDs, inequalities and lack of trauma-informed services. With reconsideration of reporting system, we could be much more effective as well as we could understand better this very complex and holistic field.