



**Statement of the Republic of Slovenia
152nd WHO Executive Board Meeting
30 January–7 February 2023**

Agenda Item 23.4: Engagement with non-State actors

Slovenia would like to express its appreciation to WHO for the global and regional initiatives that are meaningfully engaging NSAs, in particular organized youth and other civil society organizations.

This topic has been discussed at the informal EB retreat, where it was agreed that there is a lot of potential in cooperation with civil society organizations, in particular, when it comes to identifying and addressing the needs of those most vulnerable and ensuring that nobody is left behind.

The statements by Civil society at the governing body meetings are important, but it would be even more important to have their precious insights at hand during the intersessional period. Some progress has already been made. Pre-WHA meetings and side events that are being organized by civil society alone or in cooperation with WHO and the MS are most welcome.

Slovenia would like to see further developments in engaging Civil society in the work of the Organization. During this meeting, many of us have emphasized the importance of implementation at the country level. Slovenia considers the inputs of Civil society as crucial for such implementation. Civil society can contribute first by identifying the needs of those most vulnerable and hidden populations in local environments and, second, by providing inputs to the development of guidelines and tools addressing those needs.

Civil society should as well be considered as key in ensuring health literacy. They can ensure that health policies are understood within communities, and they can also help us appropriately address mis- and disinformation.

We welcome the secretariats initiatives, such as the WHO Youth Council and the WHO Civil Society Commission and look forward to their further development.

Slovenia would also like to commend the WHO Secretariat for launching the initiative of social participation and publishing the document providing guidance to all the MS on how to best use its potential. In implementing the GPW and delivering the goals set, ranging from emergency preparedness to health promotion, and in aiming to health equity, social participation can make a difference.