

Statement of Slovak Republic on the item 3

Good morning colleagues,

Let me express deep appreciation to the leaving EB chair Dr Hanan for her remarkable leadership and to welcome Mr Ambassador Wilsen with upcoming and wish him wisdom to lead us through all the upcoming challenges. I am glad we all made it to this morning and, thanks to everyone's efforts, managed to get through the past week, which, for various reasons, will be remembered at least during our generation as one of the historic WHA sessions. As we anticipated at the previous EB meeting, the agenda was long and drawn-out, with many technical discussions repeating what previous speakers had already said. Unfortunately, the agenda was also politicized, which did not help its better management. And lastly, the time management, especially on Friday evening, was surprising.

We would call on the new EB bureau to ensure from the beginning of its term that such issues during the next WHA are avoided as much as possible. In our discussions, we often miss focusing on real paths to changing health policies, supporting vulnerable health systems with fragile political determinants of health, missing technical standards and recommendations, pediatric medicines, mental health work, and many other challenges that remain inadequately addressed.

Please consider the possibility of changing the organization of the program as follows: consider grouping larger agenda items so that we, as states, speak only on the highest priorities, and the rest of the good practice examples from our countries or anything else is shared in written statements posted online, where they can be accessible to all and referred to repeatedly for study. I also recommend considering timing for shortening interventions, as implemented from the second day, so we really focus only on the essential points.

I would appreciate it if the Bureau could propose a new operating model in these areas at the next meeting.

Thank you.