

Statement by Finland

3.2.2025, WHO EB156

Agenda item 2 Report of the Director General

Thank you Chair,

Finland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

As a global health community we are faced with multiple challenges in safeguarding the health and safety of people around the globe. The potential to reach the sustainable development goals in health by 2030 seems to be slipping away.

We expect WHO to guide us, to provide accurate and up to date information and to assist us in the response to health threats. WHO and multilateral cooperation are also key to ensuring sustainable and timely access to the benefits provided by innovation and new technologies to address health challenges.

The economic situation in many Member States limits their ability to increase their contributions to global health institutions. The withdrawal of WHO's biggest financial contributor is leaving a gaping hole in the finances. WHO is also losing many of its critical experts. WHO's cost structure and activities must be adjusted.

We need to pull together as a community to ensure that the crucial work of WHO can continue, while taking a pragmatic approach on prioritization – at all levels of the organisation. Finland remains a strong supporter of multilateralism and WHO's role as the leading global health agency.

Thank you!