

Honourable chair,

Bulgaria takes note of the report which clearly shows that despite the progress made in controlling and containing a number of infectious diseases, global health security remains vulnerable and highly dependent on effective, sustainable, and well-coordinated epidemiological surveillance. Therefore, early detection and rapid response are key to preventing large-scale health crises.

Of particular concern is the risk of resurgence of diseases that have already been controlled or nearly eliminated due to the formation of communities of low or uneven vaccination coverage. The latter poses a real threat both at national and global level.

The COVID-19 pandemic proved that infectious diseases know no borders and that weaknesses in one health system can quickly put at risk all countries. In this context, surveillance should be considered a key pillar of health security and due investment in it is crucial. Yet, the report does not pay particular attention to growing AMR, which is one of the most serious and long-term threats to global health security. AMR undermines the effectiveness of modern medicine, complicates the treatment of infectious diseases, and increases the risk of uncontrollable epidemics, especially in countries with weak surveillance and control systems.

Bulgaria supports the call for sustained political commitment to increase vigilance regarding health threats. Only through enhanced surveillance, high and uniform vaccination coverage, an integrated approach to threats, and effective international cooperation can the recurrence of epidemics be prevented and long-term protection of public health on a global scale be ensured.

Thank you!

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