

33.1 Statement by the representative of the WHO staff associations og 33.2 Report of the Ombudsperson

Norway would like to thank the Ombudsperson for his/her report, as well as the representative of the WHO staff associations for his/her statement.

We would like to express our gratitude to the entire WHO workforce for their tireless work and commitment at all levels of the organization.

WHO is going through difficult – but necessary – changes that also deeply affects staff. Norway appreciates the efforts made by the HR department, Ombudsperson and the Staff Association to minimize the negative impact on both staff and affiliated staff as a result of the workforce reduction and restructuring process. We fully understand that this is very challenging for those affected.

We take note of the Ombudsperson's report that echoes many of the points raised in the Staff Association report. Norway underlines that the way WHO handles this process and its responsibilities as an employer is crucial for staff's understanding of the situation, trust and morale.

We appreciate the important role of the Ombudsman, both in headquarters and regionally. We were pleased to learn during PBAC that the organization plans to fill Ombudsperson positions that are currently vacant.