

***Statement of the Slovak Republic
158th Session of the Executive Board
Agenda Item 7. Mental Health
2.-7. February 2026***

*Dear Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Slovakia aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Bulgaria on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

From the perspective of the Slovak Republic, strengthening the role of the WHO Secretariat is essential to effectively support Member States in responding to the interconnected challenges of mental health, brain health and substance use. These areas share common determinants, face similar system pressures, and continue to be affected by significant measurement and data gaps across countries. Coordinated guidance, targeted technical assistance and robust monitoring frameworks are therefore critical to translating global commitments into meaningful national action.

From the perspective of the Slovak Republic, the Secretariat could play a valuable role in supporting Member States through the provision of practical guidance and technical assistance aimed at facilitating the integration of mental health, brain health and substance use services into primary healthcare and community-based systems. In this context, support for enhanced intersectoral collaboration across the health, social services, education and employment sectors, as well as the systematic exchange of good practices among comparable European countries, would be particularly appreciated.

Slovakia would also welcome further support from the Secretariat aimed at strengthening the harmonisation of indicators, enhancing national data systems, and building capacity for routine monitoring and reporting. In this regard, the availability of clear, feasible measurement tools aligned with WHO action plans, together with appropriate technical support for data collection and evaluation, would contribute significantly to improving countries' ability to monitor progress and inform evidence-based policy-making.

I thank you.