

***Statement of the Slovak Republic
158th Session of the Executive Board
Agenda Item 8. Communicable diseases
2.-7. February 2026***

*Dear Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The Slovak Republic considers a strong and proactive role of the WHO Secretariat essential to accelerate progress toward the End TB Strategy goals. Despite achievements in prevention, diagnosis and treatment, global progress remains below agreed milestones, requiring strengthened technical leadership, coordination and support for Member States.

The Slovak Republic underscores the importance of global solidarity, predictable and sustainable financing, and effective multilateral cooperation, noting that persistent underfunding and widening inequalities continue to pose challenges to tuberculosis prevention and care. In this context, strengthened, well-coordinated guidance and technical assistance from the Secretariat could support efforts to ensure equitable and sustainable access to quality-assured tuberculosis medicines, including reserve drugs, taking into account the specific needs of low-incidence countries in maintaining treatment capacity and clinical expertise.

The Slovak Republic further notes that limited market availability and supply disruptions represent a shared global risk, underscoring the importance of reliable access to tuberculosis medicines for patient safety and global health security. Support is also expressed for intensified research and innovation in diagnostics, medicines and vaccines, accompanied by measures to promote affordability and equitable access.

Finally, the Slovak Republic welcomes ongoing work towards the development of a post-2030 global tuberculosis strategy and supports an inclusive, Member State-led process. The Slovak Republic reaffirms its commitment to the End TB Strategy and looks forward to continued engagement with the international community and the WHO, with a shared objective of ensuring that no country and no patient is left behind.

I thank you.