President, Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement of Croatia delivered on behalf of the European Union.

More than ever, it is an honour to have this opportunity to address the World Health Assembly.

This very difficult year is designated the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. This is the reason why I would like to start by expressing my personal and sincere gratitude for their tireless efforts and work during days and nights in taking care for COVID-19 patients around the world.

After years of paying attention to NCDs, now, we have been reminded that infectious disease outbreaks and epidemics represent a significant health threat. COVID-19 took the international community by surprise. To avoid the most of these surprises as possible for future, I stress the importance of independent and comprehensive evaluation of the WHO and international community reaction on COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

Since building resilience at all levels is a key factor in preventing disease, protecting and promoting health in everyday life of each community, the Czech Republic continues to support health systems and fight against diseases around the world as part of its bilateral development assistance and its multilateral cooperation. I would like to make an appeal to political representatives and the WHO not to turn away from the principles of solidarity. The international community should reiterate its commitment included in the SDGs – to leave no one behind. Each and every country in the world has to be provided by the adequate support, we must continue to share our experience with everybody who is interested and to learn from all those who have expertise. I believe the WHO should serve as a platform for this exchange.

Thank you very much for your attention.