Danmarks indlæg ved Verdenssundhedsforsamlingen 18. maj 2020

Dear delegates, dear Director-General.

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Denmark supports the statement made by Croatia on behalf of the EU and its member states.
We are exploring unknown territory in our mutual fight against an invisible enemy.

I would like to thank WHO and its staff for the tireless efforts in guiding and assisting countries through this global crisis. We need you now more than ever.

We can only beat the pandemic if we act together in international solidarity. And with the UN system in a coordinating leading role.

We need to learn from this crisis, and I welcome an independent evaluation with the aim of strengthening global response in the future.

For now, we must focus our energy on getting through the crisis. On taking the necessary precautions. On developing and producing vaccines, diagnostics and treatment accessible to all.
COVID-19 has demonstrated the catastrophic potential of communicable diseases and the importance of the availability of effective medicines.

In this regard, the crisis also highlights the importance of our effort in relation to AMR. Denmark stands ready to contribute to support the development of concrete One Health solutions.

A pandemic also has severe impact on access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health and rights. Evidence shows that during crisis there is an increase in maternal and child deaths, sexual and gender-based violence and a decrease in family planning services.

Let us use this unique situation to accelerate progress and let us do so together through strong multilateral cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.