Honorable President,
Director-General,
Delegates,

Finland aligns herself with the statement of the European Union and its Member States. To complement those messages I would like to take a forward looking approach.

When this pandemic eventually ends, the world will look different. The toll on public health, the economy and the society are beyond anything we have predicted. Yet, I want to be optimistic.

I believe we have the power to translate the commitment to global solidarity into actions and build back better. We can do this by ensuring that health workers are kept safe, the most vulnerable groups are protected, the vaccines are common goods for health, inequity is countered through social security and businesses are supported. It is imperative that we base our actions on a rights based approach and use a gender lens.

We already know what works: Universal Health Coverage and strong health systems, Health in All Policies approach rooted in evidence and impact evaluation, preparedness through essential public health functions and taking a Whole of Society approach.
We also have new tools that will help us get there. We can boost health systems through digital solutions and technological innovation if we mind the issues related to rights, ethics and data protection.

If we resolve to take a more comprehensive approach to recovery, we can avoid the pitfalls of past recessions. The Economy of Wellbeing can lead the way to a socially, economically and ecologically more sustainable recovery.

Thank you.