Latvia`s Statement on WHA73 - “COVID-19 Pandemic Response”

Distinguished Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen! Latvia aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Currently, due to COVID-19 the whole world is undergoing a challenging time that tests not only the national health systems` capacities, but also society`s physical and mental health. The virus has affected all possible sectors, but there is no time to mourn the losses and adversity associated with COVID-19. This is a time for finding solutions to the current challenges, to evaluate response actions, draw conclusions on which measures worked better than others and to move forward with renewed vigor into the future.

Latvia is one of those countries where the response to COVID-19 was very well managed. It is due to the hard work of our epidemiologists, who studied each case very thoroughly, tracing the cases and contacts. We have applied the Whole of Government approach following closely the epidemiologists` advice. We have dedicated health workers. Population has followed sanitary guidelines. It has been a common effort!

The first lesson that we learned was that the evidence-based approach is the best. Latvia highly values the contribution, support and guidelines of the World Health Organization and its coordinated approach not only in the initial stage of COVID-19, but also now - in the transition phase. Latvian government also supported the work of
the WHO by a voluntary contribution to the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.

Undeniably, COVID-19 is a painful experience for the whole world. It has shown the need for coordination and international cooperation transcending national boundaries.

Latvia believes that only together and united in solidarity we can overcome challenges and prevent future pandemics.

Thank you!