



REPUBLIC OF MALTA

WHA 73 Agenda Item –

General Discussion, response to DG Address

Address by Hon Christopher Fearne

Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Health

Madam President,

Director General,

Regional Directors,

Colleagues,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by Croatia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

If there ever was a time for internationalism and for solidarity between nations and between regions, now is that time.

There is no doubt that each and every one of us and each and every country that we live and work in will be judged, will be scrutinised, we

will be audited, and I'm sure in some instances there will be incriminations. And, as all of us have to stand to the scrutiny so does WHO. And yes, there will be a time when WHO's actions and policies during these weeks and months will be scrutinised. But now, in my opinion is the time for support and the time for closing ranks.

And Malta supports WHO in its work over the last four months and we augur that it continues to work with the same zeal and dedication that it has done so far.

International solidarity has to happen in practice. The big issue over the next few weeks, months and possibly years is the production and availability of vaccine to all countries and to all citizens in all the world. Lives matter wherever they are in the world and therefore, it is absolutely essential that there is no part of our global society which is excluded from the availability of vaccines if and when they are available.

And I am sure and I am positive that WHO has an important role to play in this respect. And Malta, for one, supports WHO in this.

Thank you and keep up the good work .

