The 73rd reunion of the World Health Assembly

National Statement of Romania

Honorable Chair,

Director-General,

Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Romania fully aligns itself with the European Union statement.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent global public health emergency, brought us together today in a virtual format. The same exceptional circumstances have called upon us to come together to show our resolve, commitment and solidarity.

The Coronavirus knows no boundaries, no social status, religious belief or political preference. I would like to express my deepest sympathy to all the families of the victims of this unequal battle, with a special thought for all those on the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. I am confident that we will emerge stronger from this dramatic crisis, but to do so, we need a decisive, coordinated and human rights-based approach.

I would like to thank WHO for the constant and qualified support to the member states, demonstrating leadership as coordinating authority in this time of crisis. Based upon their recommendations, Romania’s national containment strategy has used a comprehensive approach, of identifying, testing, tracing, isolating, and treating infected persons. Improved communication and strengthening our health system have been the key to address the COVID-19 and to maintain the safe provision of the essential public health functions and services. We have constantly increased our testing capacity and our ICU capabilities.

Romania, as most states, faced difficult decisions in responding to the pandemic: lockdowns, closure of schools, restrictions on services, physical distancing, border closures, with a significant socio-economic impact. Our citizens deserve our appreciation for their extraordinary responsibility in respecting rules and coming together in this difficult time.

This crisis can and should be an opportunity to build a more resilient world, including against pandemics, by thinking and acting at global, regional and national levels. We need to partner in order to develop and to ensure equitable access to safe, effective, quality, affordable diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines against COVID-19, for all those in need, within a consolidated multilateral cooperation.

Thank you.