

Statement of Slovakia at the Seventy-third World Health Assembly on agenda item 3

*Honorable Chair,
Distinguished Director – General,
Colleagues,*

Slovakia aligns itself with the EU statement and EU cosponsorship of draft resolution on COVID-19 Response.

Let me start by saying that the global reach of the novel coronavirus has been showing us that although we may have faced numerous challenges in the past, this one is, indeed, different. United and coordinated response to COVID-19 lies at the heart of our common endeavor in the fight against this invisible enemy that respects no border. We believe that the WHO offers an opportunity to walk together and we all need to contribute to this joint effort responsibly.

Serious undertakings have been made by the governments across the globe in order to reduce the magnitude of the present crisis. It is also important to stress that meanwhile our focus is set on the general population, the vulnerable and marginalized groups should not be placed under the radar and deserve our undivided attention as much during these unprecedented times as in the future after the crisis will be diverted.

Furthermore, the appropriate attention should be also drawn to the fact that once the vaccine against COVID-19 is released for the treatment use, the international community should make sure it will not be commercialized in the first place, but rather it should represent an instrument for the general good.

At international level, Slovakia considers the best practice and information sharing as a key tool for managing the pandemic efficiently. We have observed that deaths reporting due to COVID-19 varies significantly creating hidden asymmetrical picture about the countries' data statistics. Therefore, we would invite the WHO to provide a guidance on data collection and their reporting in order to ensure reliable international comparison.

Lastly, we are pleased to see gradual easing of lockdown measures that insinuates we are on the right path, even if there might be still a bit more to endure.

Slovakia has been fortunate enough to be able to enter recently into the second and the third deconfinement phase at once, given the low fatality and infection growth rates. This is, foremost, due to timely measures and responsible citizens' behavior.

In this regard, Slovakia widely supports the global efforts to tackle the novel coronavirus and I wish to reiterate the firm commitment of my country to work with the WHO, the states all over the world and other relevant partners in the spirit of global solidarity.
