
World Health Organization

WHA 73rd Session, 10 November 2020

Pillar 3: One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being

Thank you chairperson.

In the interest of time, I will be brief.

We would like to thank the DG and the secretariat for preparing the reports under Pillar 3: One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being.

On agenda item 15.2, I wish to note that Israel unequivocally supports the decision made by the EB (146/20) regarding maternal, infant, and young child nutrition. The Israeli health system has put special focus on this issue for many years, leading to a very healthy population with long life expectancy. We support the efforts to finalize an agreement between the Member States on the draft decision.

On agenda item 15.1 on Decade of Healthy Ageing, I wish to note that we highly appreciate the work of the WHO on breaking the definition of “healthy Ageing” into clear and measurable components .

The current crisis has made clear that the particular needs and preferences of older persons must be taken into account when planning and when implementing public health policies and interventions. We highly appreciate the fact that WHO has issued guidance that support Member States to protect their older population, including the policy brief on *Preventing and managing COVID-19 across long-term care services*, and the guidance document on *Infection Prevention and Control guidance for Long-Term Care Facilities in the context of COVID-19*.

We support this work, and welcome further inclusion of older persons, into all Covid-19 related policy briefs. In this regard, it is crucial that older persons with disabilities and their organizations be effectively consulted with.

Chair,

As noted in the report before us, “the estimated proportion of significant and moderate loss of functional ability and intrinsic capacity is higher in older women than older men”. The urgent need to shed more light on the health impact of the gender gaps between older men and older women, is thus evident. In particular, we would welcome a focus on elder abuse with a gender perspective .

We wish to raise two additional points on this topic:

Firstly, mindful of the lack of disaggregated data on older persons worldwide, we would welcome information from the secretariat on actions made to address this challenge.

Secondly, mindful of the strong interdisciplinary nature of this work, we would appreciate to learn how WHO works with partners across disciplines, within WHO and with external partners, including older persons and their organizations.

I thank you for your attention.