

Statement of Slovakia at the WHA73rd session
Geneva, 9-14 November 2020

11.8. Neglected tropical diseases

Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement of the EU under agenda item 11.8 as well as with the EU co-sponsorship of draft decision on NTDs.

Based on our scientific and practical experience in the field, we welcome and strongly support the report and road map that identifies critical gaps and the actions required to reach global 2030 targets. Alongside, these documents are essential when it comes to addressing 20 diseases that disproportionately affect populations living in poverty across all the regions.

Furthermore, with increasing numbers of immunocompromised and variable categories of vulnerable populations, Slovakia highlights a special standing of SDG indicator 3.2 and 3.8, which could play a significant role in monitoring the equity and fairness of UHC implementation.

We agree with the point 8 of the Report recognizing the interventions against neglected diseases as one of the best buys in development and in breaking the poverty cycle. We also underline Preventive Chemotherapy Coverage that remains key to ensure that the diseases of the least well-off are being prioritized from the very beginning, particularly having on mind the path towards UHC.

Moreover, in the light of COVID-19 burden as well as its economic and social consequences, we see the role of WHO and less affected regions in supporting the access to NTDs treatment for defined risk populations and groups. In many cases, the treatment of NTDs is cheap in comparison to treating other diseases, while having an enormous impact on health and decent life of those living in affected communities.

Thank you, Chair