Statement of the Slovak Republic
74th World Health Assembly
22.1. Social Determinants of Health

Dear Mr Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the EU statement on this agenda point and welcomes the EU cosponsorship of the resolution on SDH.

We would like to thank Peru for the effort in leading the deliberations on this important matter.

The work set up by the resolution is pivotal for reaching the targets and goals agreed at international level. Having them present while developing responsive strategies and finding effective solutions to narrow the inequity gaps is crucial for an accelerated joint action.

In addition, in accordance with the correspondent EB reports *EB148/24* and *A74/21*, we would like to emphasize that the absence of stress, crisis and trauma management approaches concentrated foremost at the families and men, in these exposed times, results in socio-pathological behaviour such as domestic and other forms of violence. Apart from that, in terms of existing vulnerabilities, the stigmatisation is another undesirable element which should be systematically tackled.

Likewise, we would like to underline that communicable and non-communicable diseases related to the the pandemic have a serious ability to influence life at various levels and in different magnitude. It should be also noted that some social and economic factors which shape human behaviour pose considerable challenges when preventing and controlling risk factors in the post-pandemic era.

Therefore, we call on the international community to work on preventive strategies, clinical guidelines and policy recommendations in order to secure adequate, accessible and evidence-based support.

This pandemic has made us pay heavily for the missteps, which is why Slovakia wishes to reiterate the importance of prioritising health and allocating adequate human and financial resources to achieve UHC and health-related social protection, while addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. Rapid and effective measures against poverty and other major social determinants and sources of inequity are urgently needed for the sake of attaining better health outcomes in the post-COVID-19 world.

Thank you.