Statement of the Slovak Republic
74th World Health Assembly
34.1. Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss

Dear Mr Chair,

Slovakia was a proud co-sponzor of the Resolution on Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss and we were also pleased to actively contribute the World Report on Hearing, whose implementation is strongly supported by Slovakia. We consider important the advocacy efforts through the World Hearing Days in order to continue raising awareness and foster the information exchange and scientific research.

In terms of tailoring preventive measures, it is vital that those are well adjusted and that direct management of hearing and ear related disorders is assured. Similarly, it is crucial to monitor carefully the newborns, preschool children, the individuals working in high – risk occupational settings and the elderly within the primary healthcare system. Equally, we should not omit the growing issue of noise induced hearing loss due to recreational exposure.

On the other side, to secure the funcionality of prevention at large, there is a need to implement correspondent noise control policies and, at the same time, Slovakia would like to pinpoint the need to develop integrated strategies focused on the improved access to affordable, cost-effective assistive technologies.

In essence, Slovakia acknowledges with appreciation the WHO action leading into achieving global hearing health, however, we also encourage WHO to build upon existing initiatives so that they could be reflected in operative practice.

Thank you.