



75th World Health Assembly

22-28 May 2022

General discussion

Agenda item 3

UNDP intervention

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Dear Chair, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme, I am pleased to address this 75th meeting of the World Health Assembly.

Since the last in-person WHA, multiple interconnected challenges have converged to threaten progress on the 2030 Agenda and threaten the very core of human health and that of the planet. These include the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, humanitarian emergencies, and now the war in Ukraine. Together, these are increasing insecurity. UNDP's 2022 Special Human Development Report on Human Security found that six in seven people globally feel insecure and that people's sense of safety and security is at a low in almost every country.

The theme of this year's WHA - Peace and Health - is an important topic in any given year, but especially critical in light of the war in Ukraine which is affecting the health and development of millions of people within its borders and beyond.

As part of the coordinated UN response in Ukraine, UNDP is mobilized to ensure supplies are in place to meet emergency medical demands. We are working with the Government of Ukraine to provide emergency healthcare services, psychosocial counseling, cross-border transportation and temporary accommodation and shelter. Under the leadership of WHO and UNICEF, UNDP is assisting 62 countries to advance vaccine equity and transition to a COVID-19 recovery, so making the world more equal and better prepared for future pandemics.

Through the SDG 3 Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being for All, UNDP is working with WHO and partners to strengthen collaboration for an equitable and resilient recovery towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

In support of WHO's mission, UNDP has made significant contributions towards addressing the determinants of health and strengthening health systems: 131 countries received COVID-19 support in 2021, including training more than a million healthcare workers; 106 countries have been supported on HIV, human rights, gender and key populations and more than 7 million lives have been saved through UNDP's partnership with the Global Fund.

Today's world demands a new approach to human security and to development, which is centered on the restoration of our planet, peace and global solidarity.

We appreciate the strong partnership between UNDP and WHO and remain committed to working with WHO to support Member States in their efforts to achieve universal health coverage and health for all.

I thank you Chair, and I wish you all a successful WHA.