



Statement to the 76th World Health Assembly: General Debate  
Mr Jorge Moreira da Silva, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNOPS

---

President, Honourable Delegates, Director-General,

We meet this year with some optimism, however in the face of some major and ongoing global challenges that are impacting the health and well being of people around the world. As Dr Tedros has said - the lessons, the investments and the capacity we have built coming out of COVID19 must be transformed into meaningful change.

UNOPS salutes the World Health Organization's tireless leadership to advocate and highlight the key investments that must be made to accelerate Universal Health Coverage, to improve health and well-being and to prevent, detect and respond to emergencies. These are critical in the face of ongoing global instability and the climate crisis.

Close to [1 billion people](#) in low- and lower-middle income countries are served by health-care facilities with unreliable electricity supply or with no electricity access at all. Similarly, while safe and readily available water is crucial to maintaining public health, there are still around [2 billion people](#) without safely managed drinking water services.

UNOPS is responding to these needs. We are working with governments and partners to procure and implement solar solutions that are now providing reliable, clean energy to health care facilities. We also support our partners with increasing access to quality water supply and functional sanitation systems in developing countries, especially in fragile environments.

UNOPS is proud to support WHO and partners addressing the challenges in the climate - health nexus, particularly in lower middle income countries, and helping communities benefit from safer and more sustainable healthcare facilities.

In remote, fragile and conflict affected areas, where millions of people are still left behind, UNOPS will continue to work with governments, local, regional and international partners, to scale up our innovative and sustainable **health infrastructure, health procurement and health programme implementation projects to accelerate the achievement of SDG3 and beyond.**

In Pakistan, Sudan, Ukraine and other emergency settings, we continue working with WHO and other key partners to deliver essential equipment and supplies to vulnerable communities, and support early recovery and reconstruction efforts with a focus on health procurement and health infrastructure.

In Geneva, UNOPS is proud to host global partnerships to Scale up Nutrition, Roll back Malaria, Stop TB, accelerate access to Assistive Technologies, and increase funding for Sanitation and Hygiene.

This is a pivotal moment for the health and wellbeing of our planet. We have a moral responsibility to work better together in support of countries and communities to save lives and drive health for all.

\*\*\*\*\*