

Dear Chairperson, dear Director - General, ladies and gentlemen,

The recent global threats faced by humanity prompt us working closely on fixing the fractured world. The emergency situations occurred during the last few years have revealed the fragility of human civilization against unforeseen circumstances. **Better emergency preparedness requires a resilient global health infrastructure.**

Growing number of chronic diseases, shortage of medical professionals, rising costs of treatment and increasing life expectancy create new challenges for the healthcare industry. Technological development in the IT sector led to bring to reality the dream about “Health for All” by means of accessibility of healthcare services.

There are several challenges in achieving “Health for All” globally. It is estimated that by 2040, fifty percent of all deaths will be attributable to NCDs. **Access to essential medicines is problematic for one third of all population worldwide.**

Within the last 20 years, Azerbaijan has done a tremendous work for scaling up the national healthcare system. Over 700 medical facilities have been built and equipped with cutting - edge medical devices. **One of the targets of the "2022 - 2026 socio - economic development strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan",** approved by Presidential Decree, is to ensure a healthy lifestyle for citizens. **Individuals’ behavior change can work to achieve better health outcomes.**

Health doesn’t exist in isolation. 2024 has been declared a “Year of Solidarity for a Green World” in Azerbaijan. The Presidential Decree underscores the Republic of Azerbaijan’s role as a reliable and responsible member of the international community, actively contributing to the fight against the consequences of climate change. Azerbaijan is always committed to the green agenda and is going to host COP29 **November this**

year. It is a unanimous recognition of Azerbaijan's leadership and efforts in addressing climate change at the global level.

Your Excellencies, distinguished audience,

In my country, "Health for All" concept is particularly important in terms of ensuring safe return of former internally displaced persons to their native lands. Within the Great Return Program, Azerbaijani Government is doing a huge work on restoration and rebuilding of the devastated liberated territories. **Overwhelming contamination of the formerly occupied lands with mines and explosives create impediments to resettlement processes.** This is a serious challenge to the national healthcare system.

With this, we also emphasize that respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of sovereign states are important principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, **we stress that issues brought to the attention of the World Health Organization, including those related to People's Republic of China, must be approached in full conformity with these principles.**

Dear participants,

We encourage WHO as a global coordinating health authority, to keep setting norms and standards to protect health and well - being of the world population. It is time to develop strategy documents to ensure "Health for All" that must be unanimously supported by WHO member countries.

Thank you for your time.