



European Union

Statement

WHO

77th World Health Assembly

(27 May – 1 June 2024)

Item 18 – Sustainable financing: WHO investment round

Geneva, 27 May 2024

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EU Statement

Chair,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina* and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

We welcome and support the continued efforts to improve the sustainable financing of WHO. Besides the other measures, the decision to incrementally increase the share of assessed contributions and the first agreed increase were a crucial first step in giving the WHO greater independence and effectiveness.

The upcoming WHO investment round can help provide the organisation with more predictable, consistent and sustainable voluntary funding, to ensure a broader donor base in voluntary contributions and support the 14th General Programme of Work.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

It is therefore very useful that the first WHO investment case is launched in parallel with the adoption of the 14th General Programme of Work. The two processes should be linked as closely as possible, to ensure adequate funding for the priorities identified and agreed by the Member States, and to meet the challenges of the years ahead, such as Universal Health Coverage, the strengthening of human resources in health through initial and lifelong training of health workers, the implementation of the One Health approach, and many others. These priorities are also reflected in a renewed EU-AU Partnership on Global Health.

We welcome the fact that this process should generate an increase in the proportion of non-earmarked voluntary contributions, which are necessary to bring greater flexibility and independence to the Organisation, and to address the structurally underfunded areas in the budget, the so-called pockets of poverty.

The investment round is expected to go hand in hand with better needs assessment, accountability and efficiency on the part of the Organisation, and its reporting process. We note with satisfaction that progress is underway in this respect, and are ready to contribute actively.

The EU and its Member States are looking forward to the first WHO Investment Round Summit at the end of the year, as a historic event to sustain the political momentum on global health financing. We believe these measures will contribute to a more sustainable and predictable financing, and a more independent and empowered WHO.