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البعثة الدائمة لدولة إريتريا
لدى الأمم المتحدة

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA**

Check against delivery

**Statement delivered by Mr. Habtom Zerai Ghirmai, Head of
Delegation to the 77th World Health Assembly,
Geneva, 27 May-1 June 2024**

Mr. President,

I convey my governments warm congratulations to you on your election as President, and I assure you of Eritrea's full support.

Eritrea fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group. I would, however, like to make additional remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. President,

The Assembly's theme this year, All for Health, Health for all, greatly resonates with Eritrea's health policy. Eritrea has continuously focused on improving the country's quality and access to healthcare for the last three decades.

I humbly share that health care (in its preventive, promotive and curative aspects) is now universally accessible to all Eritreans, irrespective of their social status or financial capacities. Healthcare is heavily subsidized, where patients only make nominal payments. Financial support is also offered to those who need it.

Additionally, healthcare services have registered marked expansions over the years, 70% of the population now lives within a 5 km radius of a functioning health facility. Disease remedy and prevention have increased manifold, so much so, that only 5 malaria-related deaths were reported in 2023.

Eritrea's tremendous leaps in routine childhood vaccination have garnered recognition and multiple awards in the past two decades. We have sustained universal immunization at around 98% since 2013. This is recognized as a tremendous achievement for a small developing country like Eritrea.

Mr. President,

Before closing, Eritrea would like to reiterate its adherence to the one-China principle. The government of the Peoples Republic of China is the only legitimate government representing China.

We are really appalled by the hypocrisy and double standards exhibited by Western leaders these days. Most of those who are continuously vocal about the War in Ukraine are actively complacent in the killing of thousands of innocent women and children in Gaza. An unspeakable tragedy that is unfolding in real time.

Those same leaders, are as well, silently killing more women and children through illegal unilateral coercive measures. Negative impacts of these unilateral sanctions and over-compliance, on the right to health in particular, are clear and tangible. Unilateral sanctions have curtailed healthcare systems abilities to offer timely and effective medical treatments. Which is sadly, resulting in a shocking number of children and women dying from diseases that would otherwise be preventable.

These silent killer wars that grossly violate international law and the principles of the UN Charter should be condemned and stopped.

I thank you.