Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly  
Statement of  
H.E. Ms. Teuta AGAI-DEMJAHA  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,  
Permanent Representative  

Health for All, All for Health  

Geneva, May 24, 2024
Dear Director General,
distinguished delegates,
estimated colleagues,

"Health for All, All for Health" resonates deeply. This principle is not just an aspiration – it is a fundamental human right that we must strive to make a reality for every individual.

North Macedonia remains committed to the vision of "Health for All."
Our social health insurance system currently covers 90% of our population, reflecting significant progress towards universal health coverage. Improvements in average health levels and life expectancy, as well as reductions in premature mortality are a reality in North Macedonia.

However, achieving true health for all requires addressing the remaining gaps that prevent every citizen from fully exercising their right to health. Structural and financial barriers still hinder equitable access to healthcare.

Out-of-pocket expenses for medicines impose significant burdens, particularly on our most vulnerable population. In rural areas, inadequate infrastructure limits access to essential health services, exacerbating health disparities. Non-communicable diseases, driven by high tobacco use, unhealthy diets, and insufficient physical activity, dominate our mortality rates.

Moreover, environmental pollution, and social determinants of health such as education, employment and living conditions, play a critical role in shaping health outcomes.

Addressing these broader social factors is essential in achieving equity and ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to lead healthy lives.
The question is - how can we ensure healthier lives and better access to health care services for our citizens, regardless of the conditions in which they are born, grow, live, work, and age, and irrespective of their income.

Real positive change is achieved when health becomes the ultimate goal of all sectors and is placed at the heart of all national policies as an essential productive factor and driver of economic and social prosperity.

The vision of North Macedonia aligns perfectly with the principle of Health for All.

Universal health coverage is not just a goal; it is a necessity. It requires a collaborative effort between the governments, healthcare providers, and international partners like WHO.

Let us partner together to build a healthcare system accessible for everyone. Our collective efforts today will pave the way for a healthier and more equitable future for all.

Thank you.