

Written statement of the Slovak Republic

77th World Health Assembly

14.1

WHO's work in health emergencies

- Documents A77/4, A77/11, decisions EB154(9) and EB154(10), A77/A/CONF./4, A77/A/CONF./4 Add.1 and A77/A/CONF./13

Honorable Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the EU statement delivered by Belgium. We thank for the The Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme report on emergencies and we acknowledge WHO's central role in coordinating health needs in various health and humanitarian crises.

We recognize the impactful work on global health architecture, now being implemented in ongoing emergencies, notably through the Universal Health and Preparedness Review (UHPR) led by Portugal and other initiatives like "Strengthening Health Emergency Preparedness for Disasters" led by Croatia, Fiji, and Mozambique, which we gladly cosponsor.

Slovakia supports marginalized and vulnerable communities facing difficulties linked to fragile health systems and we call for more support and protection, including MHPSS services for all health, humanitarian workers and victims.

Together with cosponsors Slovakia submitted **a resolution on strengthening laboratory biological risk management.**

The list of cosponsors includes:

Slovakia, Croatia, Sweden, EU27, US, Canada, Afghanistan, Egypt, China, Botswana, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova

This resolution addresses challenges in laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, emphasizing comprehensive risk management, international collaboration, and strengthening global health security.

We appreciate the involvement of over 400 experts from all WHO regions in working on this resolution. We value the focus on technical issues, depoliticization, respectful language, and the need for continuous collaboration on training, knowledge exchange, and strengthening technical capacities at all three WHO levels for effective guidance and implementation. We are committed to working with co-sponsors, Member States, and WHO at all levels to improve

biological risk management and ensure early response systems and infrastructure are developed for every country.

Thank you.