



19 May 2025

WHA 78 session

Statement

Plenary

Agenda Item 3, General Discussion

Delivered by H.E. Lena Nanushyan, 1st Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia

Esteemed Director-General,

Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations,

Excellences,

Distinguished colleagues,

It is an honor to participate in the Seventy-eighth session of the World Health Assembly on behalf of the Republic of Armenia.

We thank the Director-General for his comprehensive report and stress Armenia's support to the World Health Organization as the primary body of global health governance architecture to advance our shared commitment for achieving the primary goal of saving lives and promoting health for all. In these turbulent times and weakening multilateral institutions solidarity and collective efforts of international community are crucial to achieve our common objectives.

In Armenia, we deeply understand the link between peace and health — not as a theoretical concept, but as a lived reality. As a nation shaped by the scars of conflict, we know that health systems cannot thrive in the absence of peace, just as peace cannot endure without the foundation of health and human dignity.

In the aftermath of the 44-day war in Nagorno-Karabakh in the fall of 2020 amidst the global pandemic and the forced displacement of over 115000 refugees in September 2023, the entire indigenous population of Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia's health system faced significant challenges to cope with the scale of the refugee crisis. We had to address urgent healthcare needs of the refugees, in particular

the victims of the fuel depot explosion. In the long run response to the rising mental health challenges remains one of the most underrecognized consequences of conflict.

This experience has underscored for us the importance of aligning health system recovery with broader peacebuilding efforts.

Armenia is actively working to promote peace in our region — not only through dialogue, but through initiative called the “Crossroads of Peace”.

At the national level, Armenia continues to prioritize universal and equitable access to healthcare, and we reiterate our unwavering commitment to the global efforts to realize the Universal Health Coverage. We are working to expand access to quality care, particularly in primary health services in rural areas, ensuring that no one is left behind. Together with our partners, we are building a more inclusive and resilient health system—one that serves every citizen, regardless of geography, income, or background.

Distinguished colleagues,

We firmly believe that investing in health is not only a moral obligation — it is a strategic investment in achieving the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development, upholding human rights, in particular the right to health and ensuring a healthy and peaceful future for our youth. Each decision we are making today will shape the resilience of generations to come.

In conclusion, Armenia reaffirms its commitment to further advance health for all as a cornerstone of peace and sustainable development.

Thank you.