

**Statement at the 78th World Health Assembly By Hon'ble Secretary,
Dasho Pemba Wangchuk, Ministry of Health, Bhutan
(20th May 2025)**

** Individual statement by Member States – 2 minutes*

Mr. President,
Honourable Ministers,
Director-General of the WHO,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to convey the warm greetings of King Jigme and the people of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the 78th World Health Assembly.

Allow me to congratulate His Excellency Teodoro J. Herbosa on his appointment as the President of this Assembly. I wish you every success in guiding the work of our Assembly.

The theme, “One World for Health”, aptly correlates with Bhutan’s development philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH), which emphasizes that true progress is achieved when we recognize that ours is a shared and interdependent world and collective action is the only way to a more healthier and peaceful world.

In a period of increasingly complex and transboundary health threats, a strong global cooperation, now more than ever, has become indispensable. The COVID-19 pandemic not only took millions of lives but also left behind a lesson for all of us. That we must learn to cooperate for humanity to survive. In this regard, Bhutan welcomes the historic adoption of the pandemic agreement which will enable a more coherent and coordinated approach to dealing with future pandemics.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Despite several challenges, Bhutan has made steady progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage, through free access to healthcare for all citizens. Bhutan has achieved all Sustainable Development Goals relating to Mother and Child Health. We are on course to eliminate Malaria this year. I mention this to acknowledge the instrumental role played by the WHO and other partners in Bhutan.

Bhutan welcomes the commitment of additional financial support to the WHO by several member states. Such commitments truly reflect the spirit of this Assembly's "One World for Health".

In closing, my delegation wishes this Assembly a very fruitful deliberation.

TASHI DELEK AND THANK YOU.