



Statement of Ireland

78th World Health Assembly

Item 13.3

Universal Healthcare

24th May 2025

Thank you Chair,
Distinguished delegates

Ireland aligns with the statement delivered by Poland on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

While our journeys towards UHC may be different, we share a common destination: ensuring that eligible persons have access to essential, high quality health services, and to safe, affordable and effective medicines and vaccines.

To deliver UHC, Member States need strong, efficient, and equitable health systems that are rooted in and support the communities they serve. Improving access to primary healthcare services is the most effective and cost-efficient way to achieve this.

Ireland has made real progress in this area with significant investment in primary care services through a suite of strategic reform initiatives that seek to reduce dependency on the hospital system, with service delivery reoriented towards general practice, primary care, and community-based services. This has improved access to, and the affordability of, primary care services, delivering expanded eligibility and reducing the cost to patients.

This significant programme of reform reflects Ireland's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Finally, we wish to announce our co-sponsorship of the resolution entitled Rare Diseases: A Global Health Priority for Equity and Inclusion.

Thank you.