



Statement of Ireland

78th World Health Assembly

Item 14

Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

27th May 2025

Thank you Chair,
Colleagues,

This year we mark ten years since the collective call to action to end poverty and achieve SDG3: better health and well-being for all.

We must take stock of progress made by Member States under the leadership of the WHO.

Under-five mortality and vaccination rates have improved. Life expectancy continues to increase and we are moving closer to ending the epidemics of HIV, TB and malaria.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a major set-back. And we have not made up for lost time. On top of the lingering impact of the pandemic, we are now facing

squarely into the realities of climate change and intensified humanitarian need. As such, in the context of dramatic reductions in financing for health in low-income settings, the path to 2030 is getting steeper.

Non-communicable diseases, including mental health, now represent the leading cause of mortality globally and are impeding poverty reduction.

More than 700 women die needlessly during pregnancy and childbirth, every day. The situation is particularly dire in fragile and crisis setting. With just five years remaining until 2030, reinforced, effective action is a must, to achieve the SDG target of less than 70 deaths per 100 000 live births.

Ireland is deeply appreciative of, and committed to supporting, the WHO as the main custodian of the SDG health indicators. In our domestic and international efforts to achieve SDG 3, we are prioritising whole-of-government, preventive and primary care approaches – supported by data-driven decision-making, more resilient health systems, and better emergency preparedness.

To achieve our shared goal of better health and well-being for all at all ages, we need a robust, focussed, and well-resourced WHO at the heart of the global health ecosystem.

The re-calibrated General Programme of Work represents a comprehensive vision with its focus on prevention, protection and promotion, and the attainment of universal health coverage, essential for delivery of SDG 3 and Agenda 2030.

Thank you