

Item 3 General discussion: “One World for Health”

**Statement delivered by Dr. Ala NEMERENCO, Minister of Health
of the Republic of Moldova
Geneva, 20 May 2025**

**Honourable President,
Director General,
Excellencies,**

Let me first join all the previous speakers in highlighting the level of challenges we are facing today. Geopolitical issues, *the continuing wars, reduction of international aid* – all these are making our world less safe and less prepared for the future.

In view of this, it is our strong conviction that *global health cooperation* will be increasingly essential for social-economic prosperity and security. While such a cooperation is unattainable without WHO, our Organization has to adjust to new realities. Any reform is painful, but it is necessary to stay prepared for responding to future health crises. This process should be conducted in a transparent manner leading to an *agile structure, sustainable funding and clear and limited set of priorities*.

International cooperation is a two-way street and building a robust national health sector is critical. In 2024, the Republic of Moldova advanced significantly on its path to aligning to EU standards.

- ☐ Comprehensive and integrated preventive measures for the control of noncommunicable diseases — including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases — were prioritized.
- ☐ Access to medicines was improved through the expansion of the list of compensated medicines
- ☐ Access to care was enhanced through the development of stroke centres, accompanied by information campaigns
- ☐ Breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening programs were successfully implemented at the primary healthcare level.
- ☐ In digital health, e-prescriptions are now fully operational.
- ☐ We continue to provide refugees from Ukraine with health insurance coverage and access to services.
- ☐ Ultimately, we succeeded in enhancing the quality of healthcare services at the national level through investments in infrastructure, modern medical equipment, and advanced technologies. This progress continues with the construction of two new regional hospitals.

Many of these goals have been achieved in close cooperation with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the country office. We are remarkably grateful for their support.

Mr President,

In conclusion, let me turn again to global health cooperation. For countries like Moldova, it is an essential driver for the development of the health system but also a vital tool in times of crisis. In this context, we welcome today’s final approval of the historic pandemic agreement. The current global health situation calls upon us to act now — there is no time to waste.

I thank you for your attention.