

PORTUGAL

STATEMENT

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

78TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(19 – 27 MAY 2025)

Item 8.7.Gj - Global Action on Patient Safety

Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ensuring universal access to safe and high-quality healthcare remains a central priority for Portugal. We are committed to linking access with quality, safety, equity, and the protection of human rights.

Portugal has promoted a national culture of quality and patient safety since 2004, embedding it into our National Health Plan, currently the PNS 2030. In 2015, we adopted our first National Plan for Patient Safety. The current Plan for 2021–2026, aligned with the WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan, was adopted as a formal policy instrument by resolution of the Council of Ministers.

This plan targets key priorities: improving safety across all care settings—including home care and telehealth—expanding incident reporting, combating antimicrobial resistance, strengthening leadership and patient engagement, and integrating safety indicators into the performance-based contracting of services.

Portugal's National Patient Safety Plan is recognized as a reference for good practice and scientific integrity and is being used as a model by other countries. In support of this, we operate a national incident reporting system – NOTIFICA - which is accessible to both health professionals and the public.

We believe success in this area depends on effective partnerships. We continue to work closely with institutional safety committees and promote the active participation of patients, families, and caregivers in the design of relevant and practical safety strategies.

Since 2019, Portugal has actively celebrated World Patient Safety Day, mobilizing health professionals and citizens alike through public events, digital campaigns, and symbolic actions such as lighting monuments and public buildings in orange.

Portugal reaffirms its strong support for the implementation of the WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021 - 2030 and remains fully committed to building safer, more equitable, and resilient health systems.

Thank you.

[288 words]