

**Speech of the 1st Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia
on 79th World Health Assembly**

Mr President, Director-General,

Excellences,

The theme of this Assembly, reminds us that true health security cannot exist without absolute health equity. No nation can withstand global health emergencies if its own population faces inaccessibility to care.

Armenia has chosen to lead this shared responsibility by example. A defining, historic milestone in our nation's history was the comprehensive launch of Universal Health Coverage in January 2026.

With this landmark reform, Armenia has officially codified health not as a privilege for the few, but as an unshakeable fundamental right for all. Our UHC framework guarantees robust financial protection, ensuring that lifesaving medical interventions never push a family into poverty. We are radically shifting our national healthcare model away from reactive, hospital-centric care toward a highly fortified, integrated primary healthcare system that prioritizes prevention, early diagnostics, and treatment accessibility. Just four months in, our patients are already validating the new UHC system with daily positive feedback.

We remain dedicated to their health.

We firmly believe that only a structurally strengthened and resilient healthcare system has the foundational capacity to effectively prevent, detect, and respond to future pandemic threats.

However, true health security cannot stop at the health doors. It requires a "One Health" culture. As we prepare to host COP17 in Yerevan, Armenia is proud to lead the global dialogue on the vital nexus between nature and health. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is our first line of defense against future pandemics, as it maintains ecosystem services, which are essential for human health and well-being.

Furthermore, as the upcoming host of COP12 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and MOP5 of the Protocol, we are honored to serve as a global stage to strengthen multilateral partnerships against commercial health threats.

Excellencies, Armenia remains firmly committed to advancing peace agenda in the region. Peaceful, cooperative environments are the baseline requirements for public health preparedness, allowing for uninterrupted care, swift responses and regional collaboration in addressing emergencies.

By anchoring our national resilience in UHC, Armenia is proving that investing in the health is the powerful strategy to achieve global health security, and a sustainable future where no one is left behind.

Thank you.