



**Permanent Mission of
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
to the United Nations Office and
other international organizations in Geneva**

**Statement delivered by the Head of Delegation of
the DPR Korea at the 79th World Health Assembly**

(18-23 May 2026)

Mr. President,

Director-General of the World Health Organization,

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea(DPRK) appreciates the successes achieved by the World Health Organization (WHO) in protecting, providing and promoting health on the global scale and its strenuous efforts to strengthen cooperation among Member States during the reporting period.

Today, the global health environment is getting complex as characterized by worsening geopolitical instability, climate change, emerging diseases and attempts to stir up distrust on WHO and its financial difficulties.

Against this backdrop, the current Assembly has set its theme "Reshaping Global Health: Shared responsibility", highlighting the urgency of fundamentally transforming the global health architecture as our common and due responsibility, not subject to be left to some specific countries or organizations only. Therefore, we strongly support it.

Despite unexpected challenges in recent years, WHO has been driving the progress of global health by fostering country-focused and country-prioritized cooperation in accordance with GPW 14.

In particular, the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement last year and the entry into force of the amendments to the International Health Regulations provided an important occasion to improve the global health environment more safely, and to respond more

effectively to eventual pandemic.

Mr. President,

It is the grand vision and stand of Comrade **Kim Jong Un**, President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, that no mightiness or advantages of the social system can be expected from a state that is devoid of the will and capabilities to satisfy the demands of its people for the protection of their lives and promotion of their health.

The Government of the DPRK has put forward the strategy for modernization of the public health sector, which is aimed at shoring up the public health sector all at once by simultaneously promoting the construction of central and regional hospitals, individual healthcare facilities and medical service infrastructures across the country, and combining medical treatment and service, personnel training and scientific research.

Last year, Pyongyang General Hospital, which is the backbone and center of the modernized public health of the country, and standard hospitals in the three counties were built and began medical services, and based on that grand public health revolution has been launched to build new modern and comprehensive health facilities in all 200 cities and counties across the country in the coming 10 years.

In 2025, in cooperation with WHO, Gavi and other relevant organizations, we carried out catch-up campaigns nationwide in a short period to restore the immunization coverage that had temporarily been dropped during COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, by further strengthening disease surveillance at all levels, the DPRK verified again, last year, measles and rubella free status from WHO Southeast Asia Regional Office.

Mr. President,

Universal Health Coverage worldwide which we all have pledged should not be left simply as an ideal or dream.

To achieve this, WHO must strengthen the global health system by enhancing its

leading role in overcoming existing health challenges, rejecting politicized attempts by certain forces creating distrust on the organization and seeking its internal divisions, and strengthening cooperation between Regions and Countries.

Only when all member states are faithful and committed to their obligations to promote the health and wellbeing of their own people, we make the global health landscape safer.

The Government of the DPRK will remain faithful to its mandate to promote health and wellbeing of its people and will make positive contribution to the development of sound and equitable global health architecture.

Thank you.