



Finland Minister of Social Affairs and Health
18 May 2026, 79th World Health Assembly
Item 3 - General Discussion, Finland's National Statement

Honourable President,

Director General,

Dear Colleagues and Delegates,

Finland aligns itself with the EU statement.

Global collaboration is undergoing fundamental changes - some overdue and necessary in the long run. In this evolving landscape, we must safeguard the mechanisms for multilateral cooperation, dialogue and collective action. In global health the systems must work, as diseases do not respect borders. WHO's measured response to the hantavirus – emphasizing the low likelihood of broader transmission – underscores the continued relevance of these strong and well-functioning structures.

We highly value the role of WHO in humanitarian settings. We are extremely concerned about the continued attacks on health care and civilians, a clear breach of international humanitarian law. WHO's role in documenting them for posterity is crucially important. Finland would like to reiterate its full and continued support to Ukraine, both political and material support, including through WHO Europe.



WHO's core mission as a convener and leader in global health and health security as well as in setting science-based standards and norms is important to us. We appreciate WHO's adjustments to the new situation and the reforms that will continue to fine-tune its governance.

Mr President,

Political commitment to health is a strategic economic decision. Finland emphasizes the relevance of Economics of Health for All, underlining the mutually reinforcing nature of wellbeing and economic growth.

Thank you.

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