



Statement of Ireland

79th World Health Assembly

Agenda Items 15.2 & 15.5

Well-Being and Health Promotion and

The Draft Strategy on the Economics of Health for All

23 May 2026

Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,

Ireland welcomes the Report of the Director-General on well-being and health promotion and its emphasis on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

We recognise that well-being must be embedded across public policy and that social connection is a fundamental determinant of both physical and mental health.

Through our Healthy Ireland framework, we are advancing cross-sectoral action to improve population health and reduce inequalities. This includes strengthening community-based initiatives, supporting social connection, and integrating well-being into decision-making across sectors.

Ireland also welcomes the draft strategy on the economics of health for all. We strongly support the recognition that health is both a driver and an outcome of sustainable and inclusive economic development.

Ireland supports an approach to economic policy that places health and well-being at its centre, recognising that traditional economic indicators alone do not capture the full determinants of societal progress.

We believe that investment in health promotion and prevention delivers long-term benefits and is essential to resilient health systems.

We further emphasise a healthy communities approach, supporting local leadership, place-based action, and cross-sector partnerships that empower communities, address the wider determinants of health, and create environments that enable people to lead healthier lives.

Ireland recognises the importance of strengthening the evidence base and enhancing capacity across sectors to support implementation, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the WHO and other Member States.

Thank you Chair