



Statement of Ireland

79th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 22 E

Improving access to assistive technology

21 May 2026

**Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Thank You Chair

Ireland welcomes the continued focus on digital assistive technologies as an essential element of an inclusive and equitable health system.

We look forward to the global road map on universal access to assistive technology, that will be published this year and will provide practical guidance towards implementation of the recommendations in the Global report.

On technical cooperation, Ireland welcomes the work the Secretariat has been doing with Member States and other partners on person-centred assistive technology policies, products, provisions and personnel.

Domestically, Ireland has advanced equitable access to assistive technology with the publication of a new Assistive Technology Capacity Assessment (ATA-C), conducted jointly by the Government of Ireland and WHO Europe.

The assessment shows that Ireland has made important progress in recent years, while also identifying areas for improvement.

Ireland will continue to work closely with the WHO to support the translation of the assessment's findings into concrete policy action and implementation.

Ireland remains committed to working with Member States, the WHO and civil society partners to advance inclusive, people centred digital health systems.

In this regard, we are delighted to announce that, along with WHO Europe, we are currently planning a global EXPO on digital assisted technology and workforce optimisation in Ireland in 2027 and we look forward to welcoming delegates to Dublin for that event.

Thank you Chair