

79th World Health Assembly
Item 3: Report by the Director General

National Statement - Italy

Thank you Mr. President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the EU and acknowledges the work carried out by WHO on advancing reform and prioritisation, with a focus on its core mandate.

On the joint process hosted by WHO to support the reform of the global health architecture, it is crucial that this initiative remains lean; addresses gaps, duplications and coordination challenges; maintains a multistakeholder approach; complements existing work rather than creating new structures; and stays resource-efficient.

Italy also notes the considerable number of issues remaining unresolved in the PABS Annex negotiations, but remains constructively engaged in this process.

Finally, I have the pleasure here to announce the candidature of Italy to the Executive Board mandate 2027-30. As an Executive Board member, Italy would give specific attention to advancing the One Health approach, promoting healthy ageing through a life-course approach and with emphasis on prevention, and enhancing mental health. Italy is also committed to promoting evidence-based decision-making, supporting WHO in delivering high-impact initiatives and strengthening the dialogue with WHO based on voluntary policy options.

Thank you, Chair

[178/220 words]