

WHA79**May 18-23, 2026****Lebanon Statement on:****item 15.2: Well-being and health promotion, and****item 15.5: Draft strategy on the economics of health for all**

Lebanon praises the “Economics of Health for All” initiative as it presents forward health as a pillar in global and national economy. In Lebanon, the cascade of crises has weakened service delivery, while high out-of-pocket spending continues to push households into poverty. Fiscal constraints further limit sustainable financing. Thus, the vision of investing in resilience, equity, and sustainable development is crucial. Integrating health into macroeconomic planning, expanding fiscal space and strengthening financial protection feeds into universal health coverage and health security. The initiative provides a framework for mobilizing innovative financing, and building governance structures that position health as a public good. Health should be seen as a means for economic growth and prosperity.

Lebanon sees that investment in mental health and psychosocial support should not be less important than investment in capital formation for health. In fact, community-based initiatives disregard the physical structure of health provision and builds on the core principle of health promotion and disease prevention as a means for decreased health spending. Innovative financing should include community-based initiatives as well as tapping into philanthropic organizations as a national health asset.

Also, when we speak about healthy environment in employment laws, we often speak about health workforce and the physical health and wellbeing. Yet, in the changing global picture, employment conditions and workplace practices should be evaluated for their impact on mental health as well. Financing innovations should aim at not only reducing reliance on out-of-pocket spending, but also investing in mental health and the wellbeing of the population, including in the workplace. Employment laws should be amended, not only for advancing equitable employment-based funds, but also to include the absence of mental health hazards in the workplace especially in conflict affected countries. Investment in healthy cities, including climate resilience activities, can also be an innovative source of decreased health spending. Just like a mentally well employee delivers better service, a mentally well population feeds better into the economy.

Finally, while we thank WHO for its efforts in ensuring the proper functioning of health systems, we call on continuous support in capacity development and advocacy activities to ensure health is prioritized in economic planning and health systems recovery, reform and transformation strategies.

Thank you