

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
STATEMENT
79th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

May 18-23, 2026, Geneva

Mr. President, distinguished colleagues,

In October 2025, the European Union, in violation of two resolutions of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, denied Russia the seat on the WHO Executive Board despite the order of rotation.

Taking advantage of their majority in number in the region, the EU member states also denied Subgroup C of the EURO the right to independently select its representative to the WHO EB and, using their majority, voted in favor of Georgia, which has EU candidate status.

What is presented as democratic regional elections is, in fact, a dictatorship imposed by Brussels.

The countries from the European Region included on the list of candidates do not ensure a balanced geographical representation of countries on the WHO Executive Board. The WHO Executive Board already includes three EU member states (Bulgaria, Spain, and Poland), two EU candidate countries (Serbia and Ukraine), and two countries participating in EU structures (Switzerland and Norway). The election of the United Kingdom and Georgia will lead to the dominance of a single bloc of states.

The deliberate exclusion of any candidates deemed unsuitable by the EU has already resulted in an entire region of the world – Central Asia – not being represented on the Executive Board.

The WHO Legal leaves us no procedural alternative today but to approve this unfair list of countries. The Russian delegation dissociates itself from the decision regarding the submitted list of candidates and requests that this statement be recorded in full in the report.

I would like to thank the delegations for the tremendous support we have received at this Assembly, and to assure you that Russia remains a leader in global public health and your reliable partner in addressing the challenges before us.