

Statement of the Slovak Republic
79th Session of the World Health Assembly
Agenda Item Well-being & Social Connection
18-23 May 2026

Dear Mr. Chair,

Slovakia welcomes the outcome of the WHO Commission on Social Connection and strongly supports the recognition of social connection as a fundamental determinant of physical and mental health.

As a youth representative, I speak to this issue from direct experience. Social isolation and loneliness are not abstract public health concepts for my generation. They are a daily reality that shapes mental health, academic performance, and long-term wellbeing in ways that health systems are only beginning to measure.

Slovakia is taking early steps to address this. Our national project on mental health and prevention in schools, running through 2026, introduces systematic monitoring of youth mental health and builds prevention tools directly into the education system. But we recognise that domestic efforts need global frameworks to build on.

We welcome the Executive Board's call for a whole-of-society approach and for coordination among primary health, social, and community services. Slovakia calls on WHO to develop concrete indicators to track social connection and loneliness in national health information systems, and to ensure that youth social isolation is explicitly recognised as a public health priority in WHO guidance.

We have not yet built health systems that treat social connection as something worth protecting. The WHO Commission's work gives us the foundation to change that.