

Statement of the Slovak Republic

79th Session of the World Health Assembly

Plenary Session - Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility

18-23 May 2026

Distinguished Director-General,

Mr President,

Excellencies,

*Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Slovakia aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Cyprus on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

In an increasingly complex global environment, marked by growing health challenges and mounting pressures on public budgets and donor financing, the Slovak Republic highly values the efforts of the WHO in strengthening the organization's stability and advancing a more sustainable future.

The Slovak Republic believes that reshaping global health requires resilient, and person-centered approaches, firmly grounded in strong community engagement, partnership, and shared responsibility.

Slovakia places strong emphasis on community-based models of disease prevention and health promotion, implemented close to citizens and in cooperation with local and regional authorities. We are convinced that robust prevention systems are essential not only for improving health outcomes, but also for strengthening societal resilience, reducing inequalities, and ensuring the long-term sustainability and efficiency of healthcare systems.

Slovakia highlights the ongoing Swiss–Slovak Health Programme, which focuses on practical, community-based solutions addressing the root causes of noncommunicable diseases and reducing health inequalities through cooperation with local authorities.

In a global context characterized by demographic transitions, environmental challenges, and persistent socioeconomic inequalities, the Slovak Republic regards coordinated international engagement as indispensable. Such cooperation contributes to the strengthening of public health systems, enhances their resilience and responsiveness, and supports the development and implementation of policies that address the underlying determinants of health inequalities, while simultaneously improving the quality of life of all citizens.

The Slovak Republic remains committed to international cooperation, solidarity, and shared responsibility in building healthier and more resilient societies.

Thank you.