

Portugal

World Health Organization
150th Session of the Executive Board
(24th - 29th January 2021)

Item 8 The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections

Geneva, 27th January 2021

Mr. Chair,

Excellences,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement previously made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

We welcome the work of the Secretariat in developing global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections; in an integrated manner, considering common modes of transmission and determinants, as well as the populations affected by these diseases.

The fight against HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs requires appropriate focus on the disease areas at global, regional, and country levels, including through joined approaches, with clear public health argument, placing people at the heart of the response.

Mr. Chair,

We note concerningly that although progress has been made in all disease areas, the global response is off-track and most global health targets for 2020 were missed.

We commend the use of strategies that will fast-track the achievement of objectives, including full integration into primary health care; targeting specific needs of the populations; use of digital innovation; training of health professionals; comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education, and the fight against discrimination.

We note and emphasise the importance of data generation to enable monitoring of actions and to inform public decision making, and the need for the engagement of community associations and civil society. In some situations, they are even more relevant in providing basic health services for populations in vulnerable situations.

Thank you

[225 words/ 250]