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Zadeva: Poročilo o udeležbi slovenske delegacije na 73. zasedanju Regionalnega odbora SZO Urada za Evropsko regijo in na Konferenci o politiki in praksi urejanja primarnega zdravstvenega varstva: Ukrepanje za boljše rezultate, ki sta potekala v Astani (Kazahstan) od 23. do 26. oktobra 2023.

V Astani, v Kazahstanu sta pod okriljem Svetovne zdravstvene organizacije (v nadaljevanju SZO) v času od 23.10. do 26.10. potekala dva pomembna dogodka za Evropsko regijo SZO:

- I. 73. zasedanje Regionalnega odbora SZO za Evropo, 24. do 26. oktober 2023
- II. Konferenca o politiki in praksi urejanja primarnega zdravstvenega varstva (v nadaljevanju PZV): Ukrepanje za boljše rezultate (Primary Health Care Policy and Practice: Implementing for better results), 23. oktober 2023

Za Slovenijo so se obeh dogodkov udeležili Kerstin Vesna Petrič, Ministrstvo za zdravje, Andrej Martin Vujkovic, Stalno predstavništvo RS pri OZN v Ženevi in Julija Vita Glas, predstavnica mladinskega združenja NoExcuse Slovenija, kot mladinska delegatka. Iz Slovenije se je dogodkov udeležila tudi prof. dr. Zalika Klemenc Ketiš, v imenu Svetovne organizacije zdravnikov družinske medicine, WONCA (World organization of National Colleges, academies, and academic associations of General practitioners/Family Physicians).

I.

73. zasedanje Regionalnega odbora Svetovne zdravstvene organizacije za Evropo

Od 24. do 26. 10. 2023 je v Astani, v Kazahstanu, potekalo 73. zasedanje Regionalnega odbora Svetovne zdravstvene organizacije za Evropo.

Regionalni odbor SZO za Evropo je najvišji organ odločanja v Evropski regiji SZO. Sestavljajo ga predstavniki vseh 53 držav članic omenjene regije in se sestaja enkrat letno. Na rednih letnih zasedanjih države članice oblikujejo skupne regionalne zdravstvene politike; nadzorujejo izvajanje dejavnosti in aktivnosti Regionalnega urada SZO za Evropo; razpravljajo o predlaganem programu in proračunu; volijo in imenujejo člane odborov in strokovnih skupin SZO.

Zasedanje je otvoril predsednik Kazahstana, g. Kassym Jomart Tokayev, ki je opozoril na pomembnost PZV kot temelja zdravstvenega sistema in potrdil zavezanost Kazahstana k njegovi krepitvi. Kazahstan že vrsto let gosti Evropski center SZO za primarno zdravstveno varstvo v Alma-Ati ([https://www.who.int/europe/teams/centre-for-primary-health-care-\(kaz\)](https://www.who.int/europe/teams/centre-for-primary-health-care-(kaz))), kjer je bila leta 1978 sprejeta deklaracija SZO o PZV. Leta 2018 je bila v Astani sprejeta posodobljena deklaracija o PZV.

Generalni direktor SZO, dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, je v svojem uvodnem nagovoru opozoril na konflikte v Evropski regiji in pozval k takojšnji prekinitvi nasilja. Povzel je tudi pet prioritarnih področij dela SZO v naslednjih petih letih: promocija zdravja in preprečevanje bolezni z naslavljanjem njihovih vzrokov; zagotavljanje PZV kot osnove odpornih zdravstvenih sistemov; varovanje zdravja s hitrim in ustreznim odzivom na izredne zdravstvene razmere; sprotno prevajanje znanstvenih dognanj v ukrepanje in uporaba novih digitalnih orodij; ter podpora državam članicam za bolj dosledno izvajanje nacionalnih in mednarodnih strategij za doseganje zdravstvenih ciljev.

Regionalni direktor SZO za Evropo, dr. Hans Henri P. Kluge je vse države pozval k prizadevanju za mir, ki je, kot se je izrazil, najpomembnejše zdravilo, ki ga v tem času eskalacije konfliktov potrebujemo. Izrazil je razočaranje nad napadi na zdravstvene institucije in zdravstvene delavce, ki bi morali biti kot ključni skrbniki zdravja nedotakljivi. Za evropsko regijo SZO, ki ni več "odporna na konflikte" kot je ugotavljal, je predstavil načrt za doseganje odpornosti: odpornosti v vodstvu SZO, v državah članicah in pri ljudeh. Sodelovanje civilne družbe, ki deli vizijo, cilje in vrednote zdravstva, oziroma socialno participacijo, je označil kot pomembno področje dela za boljše doseganje ciljev, h katerim smo se države zavezale v okviru SZO in Organizacije združenih narodov. Kot primer dobre prakse sodelovanja z organiziranimi mladimi je izpostavil tudi slovensko mladinsko organizacijo Brez izgovora Slovenija (NoExcuse Slovenia), in pohvalil njeno aktivno vlogo pri so-oblikovanju zdravstvene politike. Aktivna mladinska participacija ima vedno večjo vlogo pri delu Urada SZO za Evropsko regijo, ki je v letu 2023 ustanovil pobudo Youth4Health (Mladi za zdravje), v kateri imajo pomembno vlogo tudi slovenske mladinske organizacije.

V splošni razpravi, ki je sledila, so države predstavile ključne izzive, s katerimi se srečujejo v času permanentne zdravstvene krize. Ob oboroženih konfliktih ter njihovih uničujočih posledicah za zdravje ljudi so bile glavne teme razprave na zasedanju: človeški viri za zdravje; odpornost mikrobov na zdravila; zdravje migrantov; podnebne spremembe; ter strategije za pripravljenost in odziv na prihodnje javno-zdravstvene izredne razmere.

Slovenija se je v svoji izjavi pridružila državam, ki opozarjajo na pomembnost miru za zdravje. Izpostavila je tudi, da je za zagotavljanje zdravja ključen močan sistem PZV, ki v sodelovanju z javnim zdravjem posebno pozornost posveča ranljivim skupinam in odpravljanju neenakosti v zdravju. (Izjave, ki jih je na zasedanju Regionalnega odbora SZO za Evropo podala slovenska delegacija, so v Prilogi 1)

V nadaljevanju zasedanja, so bile naslovljene naslednje upravne in tehnične zadeve:

- Poročilo o upravljanju in vodenju SZO Evropske regije
- Proračunske zadeve
- Poročila o napredku pri izvajanju v prejšnjih letih sprejetih resolucij
- Zadeve, ki izhajajo iz zasedanj SZO Generalne skupščine in Izvršnega odbora, vključno s konzultacijo o 14. splošnem programu dela za obdobje 2025 do 2028 (GPW 14), ki ga bodo države potrjevale na zasedanju Generalne skupščine SZO maja 2024
- Sprejem Načrta kadrovskih virov na področju zdravstva in zdravja v SZO Evropski regiji, 2023-2030
- Sprejem Načrta o naslavljanju odpornosti mikrobov na protimikrobna zdravila v Evropski regiji 2023-2030
- Sprejem Načrta pripravljenosti, odziva in odpornosti regije na izredne zdravstvene razmere 2024-2029
- Sprejem Akcijskega načrta za zdravje beguncev in migrantov v SZO Evropski regiji 2023-2030.
- Potrditev datumov in kraja rednih sej regionalnega odbora za obdobje 2024-2027.

Poleg naštetih tem sta bili sprejeti tudi poročilo regionalnega direktorja Urada SZO za Evropsko regijo in poročilo Stalnega odbora regionalnega odbora (v nadaljevanju SCRC). Države so potrdile tudi nominacije v upravná telesa (med drugim Izvršni odbor SZO (v nadaljevanju EB) in SCRC). Potrjeni so bili kandidati za EB: Norveška, Poljska, Bolgarija in Izrael, ter kandidati za SCRC: Islandija, Švedska, Srbija in Tadžikistan. Države so glede kandidatur sledile predlogu SCRC in ga soglasno podprle, volitev ni bilo. Članica EB iz Slovenije, Kerstin Vesna Petrič, je na zasedanju podala poročilo o delu EB v preteklem letu.

Slovenija je poleg splošne razprave sodelovala z izjavami še pri petih točkah dnevnega reda (Priloga 1):

- **Razprava o upravljanju in vodenju Urada SZO za Evropsko regijo:** Slovenija je še posebej izpostavila pomen prizadevanj Urada SZO za Evropsko regijo za krepitev vodstvenih kompetenc na področju upravljanja zdravstva v državah članicah (v nadaljevanju DČ) in krepitev sodelovanja med člani Evropske regije v EB ter člani v SCRC.

- **Razprava o 14. splošnem programu dela:** Slovenija je izpostavila pomembnost sodelovanja s civilno družbo pri doseganju zdravstvenih ciljev, s poudarkom na najbolj ranljivih skupinah prebivalstva, in osredotočenost na takšen pristop v novem programu dela SZO. Slovenija je opozorila tudi na pomembnost naslavljanja dejavnikov tveganja za nastanek kroničnih nenalezljivih bolezni, vključno s komercialnimi determinantnimi zdravja.

- **Razprava o načrtovanju kadrovskih virov v zdravstvu:** Slovenija je podprla prizadevanja za preprečevanje odhodov delovne sile v druge države ali panoge in izpostavila pomembnost iskanja rešitev skupaj z zaposlenimi v zdravstvu. Poudarila je tudi pomen izobraževanja kadrov za zagotavljanje kakovosti in podprla sprejem Resolucije o zdravstveni delovni sili in predlagani okvirni načrt.

- **Razprava o Načrta za naslavljanje odpornosti mikrobov na protimikrobna zdravila:** Slovenija je podprla predlagani načrt dela SZO na tem področju in izpostavila pomen mednarodnega sodelovanja in rednega poročanja.

- **Razprava o pripravljenosti, odzivu in odpornosti na izredne razmere:** Slovenija je pohvalila usmerjenost Urada SZO za Evropsko regijo, da že v času zdravstvenih kriz ob odzivu na krizne razmere države podpira pri vlaganjih za izboljševanje zdravstvenega sistema, predvsem primarnega zdravstvenega varstva, kot je to primer v Ukrajini. V primeru oboroženih spopadov in drugih kriznih razmer je Slovenija izpostavila tudi nujnost, da se ob odzivih na krizo omogočanja dostopa do zdravstvene oskrbe bolnikov s kroničnimi boleznimi kot tudi do preventivnih programov in programov promocije zdravja.

Slovenska delegacija se je ob robu 73. zasedanja Regionalnega odbora SZO udeležila tudi bilateralnega sestanka glede pobude Globalno zdravje za mir (Global Health for Peace Initiative-GHPI), ki je bil sklican na pobudo Švice. Gre za pobudo, ki sta jo leta 2019 začela Švica in Oman z namenom, da se promovira mir in socialna kohezija skozi krepitev zdravstvenih sistemov na kriznih območjih. V letu 2023 je bil predlagan načrt za implementacijo GHPI, ki pa na globalni ravni ni užival podpore s strani vseh držav članic. Na 76. generalni skupščini, maja 2023, je bila zato sprejeta kompromisna odločitev, kjer se je Generalna skupščina s predlogom načrta seznanila in naložila sekretariatu, da v sodelovanju z državami članicami pobudo okrepi. Švica je na sestanku v Astani Sloveniji predstavila nov predlog resolucije, s katero bi okrepila pobudo in je zaprosila slovensko delegacijo za povratno informacijo. Glavni poudarki s srečanja so bili: da mora novo besedilo upoštevati obstoječe delovanje drugih mednarodnih humanitarnih organizacij na način, da ne bo SZO prekoračila svojega mandata; da je potrebno sekretariat SZO v resoluciji pozvati, da zagotovi tehnično pomoč pri izvajanju zavez resolucije na nacionalni ravni v državah, ki za to zaprosijo; da je potrebno dobro načrtovati proces pogajanj, saj bo besedilo obravnavano že januarja 2024 na zasedanju izvršnega odbora SZO. Slovenija je Švici zagotovila podporo pri nadaljnjem razvoju, sprejemanju in izvajanju pobude.

II.

Konferenca o politiki in praksi urejanja PZV: ukrepanje za boljše rezultate (Primary Health Care policy and practice: Implementing for better results)

23. 10. je v organizaciji SZO Urada za Evropsko regijo skupaj z ministrstvom za zdravje Kazahstana potekala Konferenca o politiki in praksi urejanja PZV s podnaslovom Ukrepanje za boljše rezultate. Konferenca je bila namenjena pregledu dobrih praks in razmisleku o problemih in možnih rešitvah v zdravstvu v času permanentnih kriz, ki se v marsičem dotikajo dostopnosti do zdravstvene oskrbe in posledično lahko vplivajo na slabše zdravstvene izide. Izpostavljeni sta bili nujnost usmerjenosti v spremenjene potrebe pacientov in še posebej najbolj ranljivih skupin prebivalstva ter v zagotavljanje zdravstvenih delavcev za delo v PZV.

Regionalni direktor, dr. Hans Henri P Kluge je v svoji predstavitvi povedal, da je najprej potrebno odstraniti najbolj vidne ovire, prepoznati tiste, ki niso očitne in hkrati prepoznati tudi dobre prakse ter jih širiti in nagraditi. Poudaril je tudi, da je ključna komunikacija na vseh ravneh, čemur SZO posveča veliko pomena. Vse spremembe v načinu dela morajo temeljiti na znanstvenih dokazih in hkrati upoštevati etične in kulturne vrednote skupnosti, v kateri se udejanjajo. Vsak kontekst zahteva prilagojeno rešitev, vsak proces je potrebno upravljati kot v poslovnem svetu. Zagotoviti je potrebno transparenten in zdržen sistem upravljanja PZV na vseh ravneh.

Kot je poudaril dr. Bruce Aylward, svetovalec Generalnega direktorja SZO, je potrebno upoštevati tudi finančne omejitve za uvajanje reformnih sprememb. Okolijske krize in demografija nam ne gresta na roke, zato bo nujno treba določiti prioritete in prednostno investirati v sistem upravljanja v PZV in zagotavljanje oskrbe najbolj ranljivim najprej; sprejeti in uveljaviti ukrepe, ki bodo imeli največji in najhitrejši učinek; vlagati v zaposlene v zdravstvu; zagotoviti sistemsko in zdržno financiranje PZV; ter vse podpreti z digitalizacijo procesov v PZV.

Dr. Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, namestnica Regionalnega direktorja Urada SZO za Evropsko regijo, je povedala, da je v PZV pomembna tudi dostopnost pacientov do zdravstvenih tehnologij in do edukacije, ko gre za kronične bolezni. Obravnava astme ima boljše rezultate v državah, kjer so jo v obdobju od 2011 do 2022 uvedli v PZV, je še povedala. (Slovenija je na tem področju med boljšimi.)

Regina De Dominicis, regionalna direktorica Unicefa, je poudarila pomen digitalizacije, pri uvajanju katere pa je potrebno zagotoviti, da ne povečuje neenakosti. Storitve je potrebno tam, kjer se to da, prenesti iz ambulant na dom ali v skupnost. Pri tem nam lahko pomaga tehnologija. Ob tem je potrebno vedno postaviti jasno shemo odgovornosti in te ne prelagati na paciente. Zaupanje se gradi/goji, ne zaukaže, je poudarila! Velik potencial je tudi v prostovoljcih.

Slovenija je s svojimi preventivnimi programi v primarnem zdravstvenem varstvu prepoznana kot dobra praksa v Evropski regiji SZO in je bila kot taka tudi predstavljena na enem od dveh plenarnih zasedanj v okviru konference (Kerstin Vesna Petrič).

Ob strani dogodka sta se prof. dr. Zalika Klemenc Ketiš in mag. Kerstin Vesna Petrič, MZ) sestala z delegacijo Latvije in si izmenjala informacije o transformaciji in dobrih praksah v PZV v obeh državah.

Priloga 1

Izjave RS na zasedanju 73. Regionalnega odbora Urada SZO za Evropsko regijo, 24. do 26. oktobra v Astani, Kazahstan

**Statement of the Republic of Slovenia
73rd WHO Regional Committee for Europe
24–26 October 2023**

Agenda Item 2: General Discussion

Slovenia aligns itself with the Statement made by Spain on behalf of the EU.

Dr Tedros, Dr Hans Kluge, Madame president, Excellencies.

We celebrate 75 years of existence. A lot has been achieved. Still, much needs to be done. The experience of COVID-19 pandemic, numerous conflicts, climate-change and other natural events, and limited progress in addressing SDGs, urge us to find new, innovative ways of tackling health issues in order to reach our goals.

In this regard, Slovenia appreciates that health equity and wellbeing are put high on the agenda of our region, and we prize the initiative on Wellbeing and Economy, that is building on the great work done with the Pan-European Commission on health and Sustainable Development. We need to ensure that this is now reflected in all our policies and the policies beyond health and that WHO is positioned as a key actor in conversations on economy, security, environment, and global diplomacy.

Slovenia is convinced that if we truly want to reach the SDGs and the GPW targets, we must focus on the implementation on the ground. We are thankful to you DG and to you RD that this is foreseen or already reflected in the global and regional agendas of WHO. Focus on the implementation in the countries is crucial!

Slovenia has a long-lasting experience of working with WHO EURO and the European Observatory for Health Systems and Policies, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. We have been analysing our health system and innovating together when focusing on equity in health, strengthening primary health care and public health and combining population and individual approaches in tackling risk factors and non-communicable diseases.

We are now about to explore together how to better use social participation in assessing and addressing the needs of those most vulnerable. Slovenia believes that we can build trust and transform our health systems to respond to numerous challenges of today only if we partner with people: organized patients, youth and others with the same values, vision, and goals.

Slovenia is looking at the events in our region with grave concern. We strongly support the efforts of WHO in providing aid in conflict-afflicted areas and encourage other Member States to contribute- including by supporting the Global Health for Peace Initiative. Dr Tedros, Dr Kluge your presence where it really matters is felt across the region and globally. Both of you have our utmost appreciation and assurance that Slovenia stands ready to support you in the future.

Thank you!

**Statement of the Republic of Slovenia
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**Agenda Item 4: Framework for action on the health and care workforce in the WHO
European Region 2023–2030**

Thank you chair, Slovenia aligns itself with the Statement made by Spain on behalf of the EU and Malta on behalf of the Small Countries Initiative.

We would like to thank the regional director for the framework, the report and for the guiding questions. We would also like to thank Romania for championing the resolutions, which Slovenia, as part of the core group, wholeheartedly supports.

Health and care workforce is one of the most pressing issues in our country at the moment. The main priority for Slovenia is the recruitment and retention of health and care personnel. We see a migration of workers to other countries as well as other occupations this has been exacerbated by the recent pandemic. We need solutions for the short-term as well as comprehensive planning and policies for the long-term.

In order to be successful, we must ensure that the health workforce is appropriately involved when assessing their needs and developing appropriate solutions. More than 70% of the workforce are women, therefore we should better involve them in decision making. What matters the most in implementation is the ownership of proposed changes by those affected.

We also see much value in investing in continuous capacity building of our workforce in order to assure the best possible quality of care.

Finally, we see the value of reaching beyond the “traditional” health sector to find human resources for health. Communities and civil society have a key role to play in reaching health goals and the formal health sector needs to better connect and partner with them. We strongly encourage more support and capacity building this area for effective and meaningful social participation.

Thank you!

Statement of the Republic of Slovenia
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Agenda Item 5: Roadmap on antimicrobial resistance for the WHO European Region
2023–2030

Thank you chair, Slovenia aligns itself with the Statement made by Spain on behalf of the EU.

I am honoured to deliver this statement as a youth delegate of Slovenia, where we, young people, are very concerned about the issue of AMR.

We would like to thank the regional director for the report and for the proposed roadmap, which we fully support.

Slovenia believes that it is very important to gather information from the countries, monitor progress, as this will encourage all of us to do better. At the same time, we appreciate that the additional reporting burden will be minimal, as existing mechanisms will be used.

There is a strong component of involving a wide range of stakeholders in the implementation of the roadmap, including communities and NGOs. Slovenia fully supports this approach, as we deem that one of the key aspects that needs to be addressed to further prevent AMR, is raising health literacy. Working with civil society is crucial in translating policies and research into language and actions of people in communities, be them professional or lay. And that is the key to success.

We also emphasize that this is a cross-sectoral issue, and fully support the "One Health approach", working together with Environmental and Animal-health sectors to tackle the challenge of AMR.

When it comes to implementation of such roadmaps, the main question to address is always the "How?", which is where we will require most of the support from WHO. We fully support the planned actions ranging from sharing best practices from countries, and regular exchanges within expert networks, to trainings and multi-stakeholder partnership fora organized by the regional office.

As always, Slovenia is grateful to the regional office and the fellow member states for their support and commits to doing its part in the success of the roadmap.

Thank you!

Statement of the Republic of Slovenia

**73rd WHO Regional Committee for Europe
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**Agenda Item 6: Health emergency preparedness, response and resilience in the WHO
European Region 2024–2029**

Thank you chair, Slovenia aligns itself with the statement made by Spain on behalf of the EU. Please allow me to make some short additional remarks in our national capacity.

Dear Regional Director,

thank you and your team for the tireless efforts in responding to the emergencies in our region, which stem from different sources- from infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, to conflicts.

An important aspect of responding to emergencies is not only to respond to the acute crisis, but to adopt a dual-track approach, which also includes a continuous strengthening of the health system, with a focus on primary care. A strong health infrastructure is an important factor for social cohesion and economic prosperity. Therefore, we must invest in improving it also while responding to viruses, earthquakes, and even armed conflicts.

We must not forget about the continued care for people living with chronic conditions, as well as prevention and health promotion- for example it is critically important to support and protect women who want to breastfeed – a practice that provides food, nurturing care, immune support and is a lifeline in emergencies.

We need to think of how to better support such measures as they importantly contribute to the resilience of our systems and people when it counts the most.

Thank you!

Statement of the Republic of Slovenia

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Agenda Item 8: Governance and leadership of the WHO European Region

Slovenia aligns itself with the Statement made by Spain on behalf of the EU.

We want to thank you, Regional Director, for your reports on this matter and for your tireless efforts to move “from good to great”. With this statement we will cover both discussion points.

Let me first congratulate you and your team for the great work done in transferring the lessons learned from RC72 to the conduct of this meeting. The process of the member-state-led resolutions, reducing the number of technical items and giving more prominence to the discussion on governance, are examples of important improvements.

Having the honour of serving on the WHO EB, we can see how some of these innovations could serve also on the global level. We believe that a two-way exchange of best practices contributes to all of us at all levels to perform better.

Slovenia is in line with what has been mentioned by several countries earlier today: EB members from our Region represent all of us. It would be thus important to consider the role of the EB members from the region in bringing forward globally our regional priorities. In this regard, it would be useful to further strengthen the links between the SCRC and the EB members and ensure that the EB members receive appropriate onboarding to perform their duties appropriately.

Dr Kluge, as you we also see the EURO region as a place to pilot innovation in the ways of working of our governing bodies. You mentioned the EB retreat last November where the ways of working have been discussed. We intend to bring the developments and innovative approaches in our Region to the attention of the EB again during its retreat later this year in Doha.

Slovenia also commends you, Regional Director, for investing into developing leadership capacities within countries at different levels through the Pan-European Leadership Academy and the Public Health Leadership course. This will ensure that we have an ever-growing pool of capable individuals within Member States, who can also effectively work in the governing bodies of the organisation. We look forward to further developments of these programmes.

Finally, we would like to thank you for giving us an opportunity to feed into the GPW14 process at the regional committee. We need to make sure that whatever Member States adopt as the next general programme of work, resonates nationally, regionally, and globally. Offering us an opportunity to discuss it here, will contribute to the coherence.

Thank you!

Statement of the Republic of Slovenia

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Agenda Item 11: Matters arising from resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board (Consultation on the GPW14)

Thank you, Madame Chair, and allow me first to express a warm congratulations for the Republic Day of Kazakhstan.

Slovenia aligns itself with the Statement made by Spain on behalf of the EU and appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the developing 14th General Programme of Work at this RC. For our country, this is one of the most important processes currently underway at WHO.

From a global perspective, it is important that the WHO keeps positioning itself as the central global health agency and as such, advocates for health beyond the health sector. With looming challenges, such as climate change, conflict, economic recession, all of which affect health outcomes, we need the WHO to keep reminding the world that for prosperity, health is essential.

We are encouraged to see that the country focus, which is something already very present in our Region, will continue. Slovenia fully agrees that to reach the SDGs, we need more implementation on the ground, and for this, support of the WHO is crucial. We must be better equipped with the “how” when aiming to reach the goals we assigned to.

Our region struggles with the burden of NCDs and Mental health. Slovenia strongly supports the focus on addressing risk factors and health determinants. Understanding and addressing commercial determinants, for example, for us still is a challenge. We need WHO to work with us in developing tools and increasing our capacities if we want to implement sometimes very challenging “best buys”.

Slovenia believes that an important driver of change is working hand-in-hand with the people who are affected by the policies we adopt and with organizations, representing them. Working together through the mechanisms of social participation can importantly contribute to transformation of health systems based on trust. Service delivery and access to health services for the most vulnerable cannot be addressed appropriately without them participating. Social participation can also contribute to increasing health literacy, health promotion, effective risk communication, to tackling vaccine hesitancy. It can contribute to addressing determinants of health and also bringing us closer to health equity and fairness. When it comes to the health systems, we must ensure that we offer the best possible quality of care. This should be more emphasized in the GPW14.

Thank you again for giving us an opportunity to contribute. Slovenia looks forward to the next consultations and the corresponding documentation.

Thank you!

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