

JOIN US IN ACHIEVING *MEDICATION WITHOUT HARM*

MINISTRY OF HEALTH PLEDGE

Recognizing the serious burden of harm and significant economic impact that medication errors and unsafe medication practices create for patients and health systems throughout the world;

Considering that the majority of medication errors and medication-related harm are avoidable;

Building on the momentum created by the WHO [Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm](#) and consolidated by the [Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030](#) to improve medication safety and reduce medication-related harm at the global level;

Emphasizing that a unique opportunity now exists to reverse the incidence of medication errors and medication-related harm globally;

I, the [insert title (*Minister of Health or representative*)],

and on behalf of all at the [insert name of government body

(*Ministry of Health*)] of [insert Member State name],

on [insert date], **resolve to improve medication safety through actions such as:**

- Prioritizing and addressing medication safety at all levels and in all settings of the health care system through allocation of sufficient resources;
- Assessing the burden of medication-related harm in the country;

- Co-designing and implementing medication safety plans and programmes with stakeholders, including patients and the public, aligned with the components of the [WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm](#) and the [Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030](#);
- Designating a national coordinator to oversee the implementation of the Challenge and national plans and programmes;
- Adopting and observing ongoing campaigns at national or subnational levels, such as World Patient Safety Day 2022 and [Know. Check. Ask.](#) to promote and improve safe medication practices among health workers, and safe medication use by patients and the general public;
- Establishing a patient safety incident reporting and learning system, including medication safety incidents (medication errors and related harm) at national and institutional levels;
- Availing information on medication safety at community and district levels to foster appropriate actions;
- Considering the use of WHO strategies and guidelines to tackle medication errors and medication-related harm, with a particular focus on the areas of high-risk situations, transitions of care, and polypharmacy, including a focus on the role of patients and the public, health care professionals, medicines as products, and the systems and practices of medication;
- Monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of medication safety plans and programmes;
- Sharing experiences and annual progress reports, where appropriate, with the WHO Flagship Initiative: A Decade of Patient Safety 2021–2030, through email address: patientsafety@who.int.

We resolve to work with relevant stakeholders, including health workers, patients, industry, regulators, and civil society in the country:

- To promote the highest standards of medication management and use, thereby reducing the risks that lead to medication errors and medication-related harm;
- To foster and sustain collaboration with academic and research institutions and health care settings in different countries to ensure full utilization of knowledge and experience in the field of medication safety;
- To encourage senior management support and role modelling by key staff to promote the implementation of interventions to reduce medication errors and medication-related harm.

[Signature]