

72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe
Statement of the Slovak Republic
Item 11 – Elections and Nominations

Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement of the Czech Republic made on behalf of the EU and its Member States and congratulates to candidates selected.

We perceive with gratitude the tremendous work of the Regional Director and WHO team together with MS. We appreciate our collective efforts of increasing transparency, predictability and equity in the WHO governance.

We thank the many MS who supported the Initiative for Transparency, looking for ways of systemic discussions of candidate countries and all interested countries.

It is hardly possible to find a MS in Europe that we have not reached bilaterally or multilaterally in the last two years with the idea of transparency based on a survey of the WHO's consensual culture and practice.

We welcome the progress made on two issues: (1) the collective assessment of the candidatures selection for EB, SCRC and other WHO bodies and (2) the notification of intentions to run that was distributed by the WHO Secretariat.

Furthermore, we would like to inform that at the last informal meeting of the Initiative for Transparency, the countries recommended as important that the open issues of further review of the processes be included in the SCRC in the next period.

We are witnessing it today, we are still facing certain challenges. We see potential for improvement in terms of wider involvement of MS in the assessment of candidatures based on approved criteria, which means that all MS interested should be able to participate in the assessment meeting without excluding the candidates themselves. Although we should consider doing it sooner: March or April? Such an inclusive approach, if followed, is consistent with the basic Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee and the SCRC. It would enable the inclusion of all interested MS and at the same time strengthen MS' ownership and trust in the Region. In line with the Global Health for Peace initiative goals.

In conclusion, Slovakia believes that the improvements so far could further be embraced as an important turning point. Stemming from the global trends and best practices from other WHO regions, we are ready to continue exploring this matter in more detail together with Member States and the Secretariat.

We would like to use our energy not for "fighting", we want to systematically work on substantive agendas in the interest of the health of our citizens throughout the region.

Thank you.