

Statement of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania Mr Arūnas Dulkys
Special session of the WHO Regional Committee
10-11 May 2022

Dear Regional Director,

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement made by France on behalf of EU and its Member States.

Lithuania would like to reiterate that it condemns in the strongest possible terms this open large-scale unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, an independent, sovereign and peaceful country, by the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

Lithuania is deeply concerned with the health situation in Ukraine caused by this unprovoked act of aggression. Everyones right to health is a human right that the Russian Federation is grossly violating in Ukraine with the continuing indiscriminate shelling of civilians and civilian objects, shelling hospitals and other medical facilities, depriving Ukrainian people from receiving essential medical care and impede medical professionals to performing their professional duty – to save lives. The attacks also pose a huge challenge for the delivery of medications and life-saving supplies which are needed urgently.

Lithuania stands together with Ukraine and is putting all its efforts to provide assistance to Ukraine, including provision of medical supplies, sending teams of doctors to help in Ukrainian hospitals, providing health care services for the Ukrainian people who fled the war and are currently in Ukraine, since the very beginning of this invasion.

Ensuring the health and well-being of all people lies at the core of WHO's mandate and commitments in all situations, including humanitarian crises and conflicts. Health must remain a priority pillar, health workers must be protected so they can do their work and save lives, health systems and medical facilities must be protected to remain functional, safe and accessible to all who need essential medical services. It is imperative to ensure safe passages so that medical assistance and life-saving medical supplies reach those who need them.

Lithuania acknowledges and highly appreciates WHO's efforts to mobilise assistance to Ukraine and all the important work the organization is carrying out on the ground. We would also like to thank the WHO Regional Director for convening this session and would like to Express our full support for the draft resolution "Health emergency in Ukraine and neighboring countries, stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression".

Thank you.