

WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

66<sup>th</sup> Session

Copenhagen, Denmark, 12-15 September 2016

*Agenda item 5 (a) – Policy and technical topics*

**Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its relation to Health 2020.**

Italy aligns fully with the statement of the Slovak Presidency on behalf of the EU.

We commend the work done by WHO and the set of essential papers and guidelines produced that are not too many.

In particular, building on networks and leading theme towards coherent national plans show WHO's added value in the Region.

Italy wants to acknowledge this value. We will join Switzerland and the Russian Federation by embarking into drafting the very first country Cooperation Strategy, addressing priorities and areas of collaboration tailored along the lines set forth by our national plans, so that alignment and mutual support can be achieved.

One small issue and a request for WHO to focus more on cross-border activities, trying to promote coherence and inter-country collaboration in harmonizing procedures and activities.

There is little scope in reforming and improving the normative framework in one country if the neighbours are not changing accordingly. This applies to health issues, such as vaccination calendar, but also and mainly to policy decisions that influence health, such as tobacco and alcohol consumption, related fiscal and pricing policies and similar.

Last week, the Government of Italy has radically amended the essential packages of health services that the N.H.S. is committed to provide to all, and for the first time 5% of the national health budget has been allocated to promote essential public health and preventive services.

Additionally, our Minister has drafted a formal agreement with the national medical board and medical unions to promote appropriateness of care and treatments based on available evidence and on the body of knowledge put forward by WHO. A specific monitoring system has been initiated to guide further improvements and a health foresight centre established to anticipate future health needs and guide an appropriate response in a global development strategy, addressing health and wealth for all, privileging inclusion, gender equity and active reaching out of the poor.

We think we owe WHO formal thanks for its support in this endeavour.

Thank you.