

WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

66th Session

Copenhagen, Denmark, 12-15 September 2016

Agenda item 5 (d) – Policy and technical topics

Action plan for the health sector response to HIV in the WHO European Region

Italy endorses the plan and resolution.

We would like to see key populations explicitly indicated, such as MSM_s (homosexual's population), migrants, drug abusers, sex workers, prisoners, transgender as well as people living with HIV's partners and people living with co-infections.

The plan reflects gender equity and gender sensitive approaches and activities and should be carefully mirrored by national plans.

We are also very much in favour of advocating strongly for innovative testing, as well as for the adoption of pre-exposure prophylaxis.

We remind the need for treatment adherence strategies targeting chronic HIV patients.

Italy has anticipated the resolution's many issues in its current national HIV plan update.

The new plan is in an advanced drafting format and has received coherent contributions from civil society, patients' associations, key populations' representatives and activists, with the support and technical and scientific assistance from national institutes, scientific societies and the regulatory agency.

Not an easy job, but we are sorted out and contributed extensively to include all new provisions in the essential basket of services delivered by our local health authorities under the public health budget, currently under registration after parliamentary debate.

Italy thinks the plan and resolution will be crucial tools to make sure we achieve the ambitious objectives set forth, and recommend strongly to look at cross-border collaboration in favour of mobile populations, such as sex workers and migrants as possible preferential vehicles and victims of the infection and of discrimination and exclusion.