
World Health Organization
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Item 16 - Social Determinants of Health

Thank you chair.

We wish to thank the Director General and the secretariat for the report before us.

Ten years after the adoption of the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health, the Covid-19 pandemic is now painfully facing us with the degree to which social, environmental and economic factors affect health outcomes. In addition, measures taken to stop the spread of the virus, do not affect people equally.

As the report rightfully points out, the social and economic toll of the pandemic will be disproportionately paid by women.

Addressing social determinants of health effectively requires a multi-sectoral and holistic approach that takes into account intersecting social, environmental and economic factors. Ministries and authorities need to work collaboratively, beyond just the health sector.

Accordingly, Israel has been accelerating equitable distribution of health, as well as addressing factors that may have adverse effect on health, including poverty, nutritional security, socioeconomic status, living conditions, marginalized groups and healthy ageing on an equal basis. Among other things, we focus on the key role that local municipalities play, and how their policies may affect health, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic;

Israel is prepared to actively promote the Social Determinants of Health agenda globally, and stand ready to work closely with the secretariat on this cause. In particular, we believe in establishing a global network of national experts from Ministries of health, that would meet regularly to share best practices and exchange knowledge.

Chair,

We would also like to raise two questions.

- We would like to have more information on the “framework for the goal’s implementation that articulates its contribution to making global populations healthier”, that the WHO is currently developing.
- We would also ask for further information on the “resources and tools to build capacity for collecting, analyzing and reporting on health inequality data for global and national monitoring”, that the WHO has developed.

Finally, we are happy to co-sponsor the resolution under this agenda item and thank Peru for leading on this issue.

I thank you for your attention.