

## **Norges hovedinnlegg under Verdens helseforsamling**

*Holdt tirsdag 28.mai 2024 av Cathrine Lofthus, departementsråd i Helse- og omsorgsdepartementet, og Norges påtroppende styremedlem til det globale styret til Verdens Helseorganisasjon (WHO)*

**President, Director General, Excellencies, Colleagues,**

- **First let me thank the Director General and WHO staff for your tireless efforts to promote, provide and protect health for all.**
- **Colleagues,**
- **The world's eyes are upon this Health Assembly. It is our joint responsibility to find common and more equitable solutions to the shared risk of devastating pandemics.**
- **Significant progress has been made. Important commitments are within reach. But there are still substantive differences that need to be overcome.**
- **We must agree on an orderly process towards a successful finalization of the pandemic agreement *and* the targeted amendments of the International Health Regulations (IHR).**
- **This assembly will also adopt the new general program of work that clearly puts WHO at the centre of global health architecture.**
- **A strong and effective WHO requires trust, accountability, transparency – and sustainable financing. As an incoming board-member, we will work to this end. Norway also remains strongly committed to the success of the Investment Round and to finalize the increase of the assessed contributions.**
- **WHO's work is increasingly challenged by external threats, such as climate change, antimicrobial resistance, and a growing number of crises and emergencies.**
- **Norway acknowledges the important role WHO plays responding to health needs in complex and challenging humanitarian crises.**

- **The war in Gaza has led to tremendous destruction, suffering and death. We have been witnessing a rapidly collapsing health system, attacks on health facilities and medical personnel.**
- **We have repeatedly called for ceasefire and for the parties to comply with international humanitarian law, protecting civilians, humanitarian personnel, health workers and health facilities.**
- **We underline the extreme urgency of providing safe space and adequate medical supplies and healthcare.**
- **Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues with grave consequences for the health of Ukrainian citizens and civilian infrastructure, including health facilities.**
- **Norway condemns Russia's aggression against Ukraine in the strongest terms.**
- **Dear colleagues, the right to health cannot be achieved without universal health coverage - underpinned by accessible, robust, and sustainably financed health systems - with a focus on primary health care.**
- **Ensuring access to preventative and integrated services, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, is essential.**
- **Investing in health is investing in our women, our children, our societies, and our common future.**
- **Making this investment is our responsibility as political leaders - only then can we achieve "All for Health and Health for All".**
- **Thank you.**