



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) 75 TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

MAY 22 – 28, 2022

PROGRESS REPORT: Human organ and tissue transplantation (Resolution WHA63.22 (2010))
Agenda Item 27.2

Joint Statement on behalf of Spain, and XXXXXX

Chair,

It is my honor to deliver this statement on behalf of XXXX, as well as my own country, Spain.

We thank the Secretariat for its commitment to develop frameworks for improving access to human tissue and organ transplantation, and welcome its report on the implementation of Resolution WHA63.22, adopted more than a decade ago.

The number of organ transplants worldwide has steadily increased over time until 2020, when it was reduced by 18%, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite the progressive increase in transplant activities, it is estimated that these barely cover 10% of the global needs, that increase particularly due to the growing burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Of note, chronic kidney disease will become the 5th cause of death in the world by 2040.

Transplantation is the best if not the only therapeutic option available for patients with end-stage organ failure mostly resulting from NCDs. Patients who develop organ failure experience a reduced quality of life and premature death, and communities confront important costs for alternative treatment modalities (e.g. hemodialysis) and loss in productivity.

Aiming at supporting Member States to attain Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 3.4 (reduce premature mortality from NCDs), further interventions are needed, in particular for NCDs that lead to organ failure. Although prevention of NCDs is the priority strategy, introducing transplantation in the continuum of care of these diseases is essential to reduce early mortality, and improve the quality of life of patient. Furthermore, and particularly relevant from the perspective of Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC), transplantation contributes to the sustainability of healthcare systems, because of the better cost/effectiveness ratio of kidney transplantation compared with renal replacement therapy with dialysis.

Transplants are not sufficiently developed in all countries and regions of the world, making access to these therapies neither universal nor equitable. This is the case in both LMIC (most without transplant programs or with poorly developed programs) and High Income Countries (HIC) (with overwhelming differences in transplant activities). Given the disparity in the development of transplantation across countries, we deem necessary to support Member States to attain SDG target 3.8, related to universal health care.



To address these challenges, we invite all Member States, in collaboration with NGOs in official relations with the WHO and other stakeholders, to work together in the coming months towards a new WHA Resolution on transplantation. Building on the lessons learnt from the implementation of Resolution WHA63.22, the new text could reaffirm the principle of including transplantation in the continuum of care of patients diagnosed with NCDs. It could also serve a basis for a future Global Strategy seeking the integration of transplantation into healthcare systems. The key sections of this strategy could be related with the legislative frameworks, the workforce implications, technical capacity and a collection of data that assures the proper monitoring of transplantation activities. Furthermore, we could explore the possibility of establishing, by means of this new Resolution, mechanisms aimed at providing technical and financial support to LMICs in the development and optimization of transplant programs.

Thank you