

Letter of Intent

As one of the signatories to the founding constitution of 1946, Denmark is a longstanding and devoted supporter of multilateralism and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Since 1957, Denmark has proudly hosted the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Our government remains strongly committed to strengthening WHO at all levels.

The COVID-19 outbreak highlights the fact that international cooperation is essential in preparedness and response to global health challenges, and WHO is the global organization to lead our efforts.

Denmark highly values the close cooperation with WHO in important areas, such as non-communicable diseases, antimicrobial resistance, vaccines and immunization and health emergencies.

The right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is a fundamental human right and WHO plays a crucial leadership role in the global efforts to achieve health and well-being for all at all ages. Denmark will continue to push for a rights-based approach to all of WHO's work, including equity, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

For WHO to maintain this strong position, the organisation must continuously strive to uphold its legitimacy and relevance. This calls for a clear emphasis on the core mandate. The normative role of WHO serves as the cornerstone of this mandate, and provides a solid foundation for the development of sustainable health systems in Member States.

Through several successive reform processes, the effectiveness, agility and transparency of WHO has improved. Denmark will continue to support the process of ensuring good governance, sound financial management and an efficient, effective and accountable WHO.

Denmark prioritizes the implementation of the 13th General Programme of Work (GPW13) and achieving its triple billion goals. As member of the Executive Board, Denmark will stay committed to promoting the triple billion goals with a focus on achieving universal health coverage, reducing health inequalities, strengthening public health and ensuring people-centred health systems that are universal, equitable and sustainable and of high quality.

With strong health systems, we will be more resilient to health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 outbreak. WHO is a vital leading partner in the global response and Denmark will work to support timely and focused preparedness for and response to health emergencies, including the full implementation of the International Health Regulations and taking into account the core competencies of WHO.

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the greatest threats to global health today. Significant progress has been made, but transforming policy into action remains a challenge. Denmark is fully committed to this agenda and strongly supports the One Health approach.

Denmark will encourage WHO to provide knowledge and evidence on the health impact of climate change and environmental factors and to develop recommendations regarding environmentally sustainable and climate friendly practices in healthcare.

By pursuing the above-mentioned priorities, Denmark intends to advance on a broad range of health issues with the aim of improving health and well-being for all.

Mr. Regional Director, I have the honour of nominating Danish national Dr. Søren Brostrøm as Denmark's candidate to the Executive Board of the World Health Organisation for the term 2021-2024.

Dr. Brostrøm has served on the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe since 2017, currently as chair of the committee. Dr. Brostrøm is a highly qualified health professional with a longstanding career in the Danish health system, practicing as chief physician for many years. Since 2011, Dr. Brostrøm has been with the Danish Health Authority serving as Director General for the past five years.

Dr. Brostrøm is devoted to strengthening global public health and will strive to promote synergies and cooperation within the board.

Yours sincerely,



Magnus Heunicke

Minister for Health and Senior Citizens