Outline

- My vision for the WHO Regional Office in the changing European environment
- WHO’s strategic relations with Member States
- Strategic partnerships (especially with European Union (EU) institutions)
- WHO collaboration with Georgia
- Biennial collaborative agreement (BCA) 2010–2011
WHO Constitution (starting point of the vision)

- It is always useful to go back to the roots and remind ourselves of the WHO Constitution, as valid today as ever before.
- Objective of WHO is: “the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health”.
- Definition of health: “complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity”.
- Functions clearly spelled out
- WHO is a coalition of Member States who jointly take important decisions: “WHO is the Member States”.

The Role of WHO

As the directing and coordinating authority in international health (WHO Constitution, Article 2), WHO:

- provides leadership on matters critical to health and engages in partnership where joint action is needed;
- shapes the research agenda and stimulates the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge;
- sets norms and standards, and promotes and monitors their implementation;
- articulates ethical and evidence-based policy options;
- provides technical support, catalysing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and
- monitors the health situation and assesses health trends.
The Changing Environment

Pressures
- Changing demographic and social landscape
- Growing health inequalities within and between countries
- Effects of economic crisis

Challenges
- Pandemic preparedness and control
- Climate change
- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and neurodegenerative diseases
- Need for health system reforms – prevention, quality, transparency, and patient needs and involvement

Opportunities
- Increased political recognition of importance of health
- Growing number of actors entering the health arena
- Key factor in innovation and economic growth
**Strengths of WHO**

- Breadth of its mandate and freedom of work
- Long-standing and trustful relationship with Member States
- Honest-broker reputation and credibility
- Global organization with decentralized arrangements: regional, country level
- Convening power
- Staff in many countries to facilitate implementation

"WHO in Europe" is more than the secretariat. It includes Member States and partners.
My vision of the WHO Regional Office in Europe (1)
The WHO Regional Office for Europe should be:

- a centre of **public health excellence**;
- a leader in **health policy, public health and health system development** for Europe;
- a strong, **evidence-based organization**, relevant to the whole Region, with strong programmes and high-calibre staff known for **professional excellence**;
- an organization that is **ahead of developments**, innovates, inspires and shows the way;
- **accountable** for decisions of the Regional Committee and World Health Assembly and, with Member States, turning them into action;
My vision of the WHO Regional Office in Europe (2)

- an organization that **unites and integrates the Region** (acting as a bridge between different parts) and promotes **solidarity, equity and health**;
- an organization that works in **close partnership** with:
  - WHO headquarters and other regions;
  - EU institutions;
  - all traditional and new players;

and creates fora for policy discussions so as to foster **policy coherence**;
My vision of the WHO Regional Office in Europe (3)

- an organization with an **extended network** to **advocate** and support **implementation**;
- an organization with a positive environment for work that **inspires and empowers staff**;
- an organization that is **financially sustainable** and has sound **financial management**.
Making the Vision a Reality!

Seven Strategic Priorities for Action

1. Developing a **European health policy** as a coherent policy framework
2. Improving **governance** in the WHO European Region and in the Regional Office
3. Further strengthening **collaboration with Member States**
4. Engaging in **strategic partnerships for health** and creating improved policy coherence
5. Strengthening the **European contribution to global health**
6. Reaching out through an **information and communication strategy**
7. Promoting the Regional Office as an organization with a **positive working environment and sustainable funding** for its work
Diversity of the European Region

WHO has to be relevant to ALL countries of the Region in different ways.

With EU Member States, WHO must:

• address their priorities;
• inspire their work through policies, strategies, technical programmes;
• coordinate, advocate;
• facilitate solidarity and exchange of experience with the rest of Europe.

With the newly independent states (NIS) and Balkan countries, WHO must:

• continue technical cooperation;
• explore ways to have more input in strategic development;
• address the health divide in Europe in order to reduce it.
Strategic Relations with Member States

The Regional Office can play an important role: acting as a bridge and ensuring true international cooperation through:

- exchange of expertise;
- exchange of know-how;
- exchange of good and best practices;
- intercountry work: an excellent means of capacity building and learning;
- promoting opportunities through twinning or multilateral agreements.
Strategic Relations with Countries (2)

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Strategic Relations with Member States

- New country strategy will be presented to the Regional Committee in 2011.

  This process includes a review of the country work of the Regional Office (including country offices (COs) and geographically dispersed offices (GDOs)):

  - criteria for establishing country offices;
  - exit strategy for country offices;
  - their role, links to the Regional Office;
  - rules of engagement with governments and other partners.

  Timeline: mandate from the Regional Committee in 2010 and report back and decision in 2011
Engaging in Strategic Partnerships for Health

and Creating Improved Policy Coherence
Strategic Partnerships for Health

Use WHO’s convening power, with (earned) leadership role for health:

- to act as bridge between countries and sectors;
- to strengthen and sustain partnerships for health;
- to create a partnerships forum to promote policy coherence.

A partnership strategy is to be submitted to the Regional Committee in 2011, presenting improved collaboration with partners at the international and country levels.
Strategic Partnership with the European Commission

- EU countries are a majority in the Regional Committee (governing body of the WHO European Region)
- Partnership to change from a project-based approach to a strategic one
- Joint memorandum of understanding to be signed by the Regional Director and Commissioner Dalli at the Regional Committee session in September 2011.
A Shared Vision for Joint Health Action

Five flagship areas proposed for collaboration

- Build **one health security system** to protect Europe
- Build **one health information system** to inform Europe
- Create a coalition of **different sectors to tackle health and social determinants**, to improve health in Europe today and for **future generations**
- Share and exploit identified **good practices and innovations**, so that the public health function of all European health systems is developed and strengthened
- Jointly identify, advocate and provide the resources for **key research priorities** that will bring the European research community together and **maintain Europe’s cutting edge in research** to strengthen health development and action
Areas of WHO Country Collaboration in Georgia

Health systems (health sector reform process)

- Full-scale assessment of the performance of health system in 2008–2009, to be continued in 2010
  - Analysis of financing reforms
  - Review of medicines policy
- Strengthen the institutional capacity of the health ministry in health system reform and analysis
- Strengthening of health system information management
- Review of policy on human resources for health (policy dialogue)
Areas of WHO Country Collaboration in Georgia

- **Immunization and polio**
  - Over 20% of children born in 2007 are estimated to be underimmunized in 6 regions
  - Good responsive national focal point for the International Health Regulations
  - Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance needs to be enhanced in several locations (Tbilisi)
  - Improved effort still needed to meet the core capacity requirements for surveillance and response

- **Pandemic (H1N1) 2009**
  - Participates in Euroflu
  - Virological data during pandemic reported almost regularly
  - Epidemiological data less frequently
  - National Influenza Centre active
  - Regular participation and pandemic preparedness meetings (next in September 2010 in Romania)
Areas of WHO Country Collaboration in Georgia

**HIV/ AIDS**

- Successful coordination with national HIV/AIDS team on drug treatment, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and obstetrics and gynaecology and civil-society settings
- Assistance in developing national evidence-based treatment, guidelines, protocols and other normative documents
- Advocacy, policy advice, normative guidance and technical assistance in promoting evidence and human rights based polices and practices
- Technical assistance in strengthening national capacities to offer quality HIV/AIDS services
- Technical support in strengthening of national HIV/AIDS surveillance and monitoring and evaluation systems
  - the draft national HIV/AIDS strategic plan for 2011–2016
  - monitoring and evaluation framework
Areas of WHO Country Collaboration in Georgia

Reproductive health
- Reproductive health strategy/plan for Georgia (2007-2009)
- Provision of technical expertise to participate in 2009 conference for breast and cervical cancer prevention
- Assessment of the quality of maternal health care with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to take place in 2010
- Development of pre-service curriculum in family planning in collaboration with JSI and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
  - Assistance in setting up a monitoring system to update pre-service curriculum in reproductive health

Health promotion
- Development of a strategy for child and adolescent health in 2008
- Participation of Georgia in Schools for Health in Europe and assistance with capacity building for school health promotion
Biannual collaborative agreement with Georgia for 2010–2011

- **Priority 1**
  Strengthening the Georgian **health system** by enhancing function of the Ministry of Labour Health and Social Affairs

- **Priority 2**
  Improvement of **maternal and child health** to reach the Millennium Development goals

- **Priority 3**
  Addressing **communicable diseases**, particularly tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria

- **Priority 4**
  Addressing **noncommunicable diseases and environmental health issues**
Conclusions

- This is a golden opportunity to **ensure improvement in public health in equitable manner** in all Member States in the WHO European Region.

- **The diversity of the Region** is its strength and can help to ensure exchange of good practice.

- **Strategic partnerships with Member States** should be improved to empower health ministries to take more effective public health action.

- **Through stronger partnership with other players in public health at the international and national levels**, WHO can assist countries to take public health action more effectively.

- **The WHO Regional Office for Europe will continue to build its technical expertise to be the lead authority** at the international and national levels.
LET’S WORK TOGETHER FOR BETTER HEALTH FOR EUROPE AND THE WORLD!

THANK YOU