

CIS Countries Discuss Coordinated Approaches to Health Development in Avaza

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The Second International Conference “Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goals” is taking place in Avaza. The event is organized by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member Nations, the Mejlis of Turkmenistan and the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

The conference is being held as part of Turkmenistan’s CIS Chairmanship in 2026 and the Year of Health Protection declared in the CIS under the motto “Coordinated Policies and National Strategies.”

Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council **Valentina Matvienko** addressed the plenary session.

The Chairperson noted that, as part of the Year of Health Protection, the CIS is pursuing systematic efforts to improve primary health care, disease prevention, access to medicines and medical devices, and the development of telemedicine.

The CIS countries are holding thematic meetings and expert sessions, implementing joint projects, and establishing awards for young professionals working in health protection and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Valentina Matvienko noted that the IPA CIS attaches great importance to the development of model legislation in the field of health care.

She also highlighted scientific and research cooperation as an important area of international cooperation, including within the CIS.

Intergovernmental programmes are being implemented, joint laboratories and centres of expertise are being established, competitions are being held, and pilot projects are being launched in priority areas of medical science.

Secretary General of the IPA CIS Council **Dmitriy Kobitskiy** is taking part in the conference.

Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan **Dunyagozel Gulmanova** addressed the participants with welcoming remarks. Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Independent States **Sergey Lebedev** also sent a message of greetings to the conference participants.

Officer-in-Charge for WHO Regional Office for Europe **Corinne Capuano** spoke about the results of cooperation with the IPA CIS, which began ten years ago.

“The principle of cooperation was simple: WHO provides evidence-based data, while the Assembly helps translate it into legislation,” she noted.

The partnership has resulted in model laws that national parliaments can adapt to the specific circumstances of their countries, as well as expert dialogue on medicines supply. There is a growing understanding that health legislation does not necessarily have to be developed from scratch.

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