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The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and has the honour to announce the appointment of Dr Michael Ryan as Deputy Director-General of WHO as of 1 April 2024.

Dr Ryan is from the Republic of Ireland and is the Executive Director of WHO Health Emergencies, Preparedness and Response. He leads and coordinates WHO's preparedness and response to health emergencies (e.g., disease outbreaks, humanitarian crises, natural/man-made disasters, and other public health emergencies).

Dr Ryan completed his medical training in the Republic of Ireland in 1988 and his post-graduate training in the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the European Union.

He joined WHO in 1996 and has served on the frontlines of health emergency preparedness and response in multiple countries and regions, as well as with the Emerging Diseases Programme, the Expanded Programme on Immunization, and most recently with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative from 2013–2017, based in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. He returned to WHO headquarters in 2017 as Deputy Executive Director.

Dr Ryan will assume the role of Deputy Director-General in addition to that of Executive Director and will represent the Director-General internally and externally on all matters delegated to him. His experience in managing complex health programmes at scientific, technical, operational, strategy, policy and diplomatic levels will be invaluable.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization avails himself of this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurances of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 29 March 2024