

Oviedo, October 14, 2026

Dr. María Neira González
Candidate for Director-General of the World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Neira,

I am writing to express my sincere congratulations on the official announcement of your candidacy to become the next Director-General of the World Health Organization. The decision of the Government of Spain to sponsor your nomination is a well-deserved recognition of your lifelong dedication to global health and medicine.

Your outstanding tenure as Director of the WHO Department of Public Health and Environment has already left an indelible mark on international health policy. At a time when the world faces unprecedented challenges, your steadfast commitment to primary prevention, scientific evidence, and addressing the health impacts of climate change and environmental degradation is more important than ever.

Your visionary approach, which places human health at the center of sustainable development, clean energy transition, and pollution control strategies, reflects exactly the kind of transformative leadership the international community needs.

We are fully confident that your extensive technical expertise, profound humanitarian commitment, and proven ability to build strong global partnerships will help guide the WHO towards a more agile, resilient, and equitable future. Your candidacy is a source of great pride for the public health community and represents an exceptional opportunity for global health leadership.

Please accept our strongest expressions of support and our warmest wishes for a successful campaign leading up to the 2027 World Health Assembly. We look forward to seeing your vision inspire countries and communities around the world.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Luis Antuña Montes
President
Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Médicos de Asturias