



HEILSUMÁLARÁÐIÐ

This is the speech that Mr. Kaj Leo Holm Johannesen, Minister of Health, gave in connection with the Faroe Islands being granted associated membership in the World Health Organisation.

Honorable Director-General, ministers and delegates

On behalf of the Faroese government, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for considering the application for Faroese associated membership in the World Health Organization with goodwill and for approving the application.

The Faroe Islands is a small island group with only 53,000 inhabitants and is a self-governing part of the Danish Kingdom. We have our own health and hospital system, which in terms of quality and competencies is at an international level. In the context of research, we are also at the forefront within the health field.

For the continued development of our health sector, research and for the Faroe Islands as a nation, it is important that we have access to the platforms where health, disease prevention and cure of disease and research in these areas are illuminated, treated and coordinated internationally.

The largest and most respectable of these platforms is the World Health Organization. And the World Health Organization is the most important community to be part of in terms of health, health crises and crisis management.

With the associated membership, the Faroe Islands gain access to valuable knowledge and research within the field of health, and we get the opportunity to make valuable connections and cooperation with other countries within the World Health Organization.

We live in a time of great challenges in the world, not least the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Faroe Islands have been at the forefront with regards to development of test methods, effective infection detection, isolation, vaccination and beating the COVID-19 infection. During this pandemic, we have followed the guidelines from the World Health Organization. And we have escaped the pandemic in terms of health, society and the economy.

Once again from the bottom of my heart thank you for the associate membership, it is our intention to enter this partnership with an open mind, zeal, and responsibility.

Thank you.