Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization announces with great sadness the death of Dr Mahmoud M Fikri, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The Organization extends its sincere condolences to Dr Fikri's family and his colleagues and friends throughout WHO and the EMRO region.

Dr Fikri assumed his duties as Regional Director on 1 February 2017. He was on his way to attend the Global NCD Summit in Montevideo, Uruguay when he died.

Dr Fikri had previously served as Advisor to the Minister of Health of United Arab Emirates, and had been a prominent regional public health figure for many years.