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Greeting

Undetected or untreated sepsis is a death sentence. This is why sepsis needs to be classed as an acute emergency. If medical treatment is not provided in time, the body's immune response can cause irreversible harm to the organs.

Claiming 85,000 lives a year, sepsis is the third-most frequent cause of death in Germany. Twice as many people die in hospitals from sepsis than from stroke and heart attack combined. While many people are aware of the signs of a stroke or heart attack, too few people know about sepsis. Everyone should therefore familiarise themselves with the potential symptoms of sepsis so that when they themselves or others around them are feeling severely ill, they might also think of sepsis.

Among the population as a whole but also among medical staff sepsis must be given higher priority so it is considered earlier on when symptoms are severe. The World Sepsis Day, whose patronage I gladly took on, is also helping to raise awareness about sepsis. In Germany, we are also working to boost awareness of the symptoms of sepsis with the "Germany recognises sepsis" campaign.

Sepsis can also be the result of antibiotic treatment becoming ineffective on account of the germs having developed a resistance. Measures to ensure appropriate use of antibiotics also help to prevent instances of sepsis. This is why sepsis is one of the focal points of the new *German Antibiotic Resistance Strategy*.

The sepsis resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2017 calls on every country to take up the fight against sepsis by means of improved diagnostics, appropriate use of antibiotics as well as targeted knowledge transfer. At my initiative, in 2022 the G7 Health Ministers once more pledged their support to the cause.

Here, collaboration and sharing best practices are vital. And that is what the World Sepsis Day stands for. Thank you all for your work in detecting and preventing sepsis. I hope that all the initiatives and events of this year's World Sepsis Day reach the broadest audience possible.