



**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
150TH SESSION OF THE WHO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD
24 – 29 JANUARY 2022**

Agenda Item No. : 15.3, 15.4 and 15.5
Title : WHO's work in health emergencies
Influenza Preparedness
Global Health for Peace Initiative
Ref. Document : EB150/18, EB150/19 and EB150/20

Thank you Chair,

1. Malaysia takes note of the comprehensive report on WHO's work in health emergencies and commends WHO for their continues efforts in responding to the public health emergencies of various grades globally through mobilization of resources and to facilitate international coordination.
2. Malaysia is an upper-middle-income country with strong capacity and self-sufficiency in outbreak preparedness and response, as evidenced by its previous experiences to a range of infectious disease outbreaks. Our National response to epidemics like the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) 2002- 2003 and the

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in the last few years, coupled with the implementation of the Malaysia Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (MySED), has shaped and strengthened the Country's robust structure to prevent, prepare, ensure rapid response to public health emergencies and recover.

3. Throughout the pandemic, Malaysia has been closely collaborating with WHO Country Office, participating in strategic discussions with national and state health authorities, partners and stakeholders. We are grateful for their tailored guidance, evidence based information shared and policy advise and their support on emergency risk communications and community engagement activities.
4. Malaysia wishes to acknowledge WHO, the government of Singapore and the Technical Working Group on Advancing Health Emergency Preparedness in Cities and Urban Settings for their works to ensure cities and urban settings are better placed to prevent, detect and respond to future health threats and emergencies. We agree that the Framework on Strengthening health emergencies preparedness in cities and urban will help policy-makers in the public health sector and relevant stakeholders to engage in a coordinated approach for strengthening urban preparedness. This pandemic has revealed the close linkage between urban health emergency preparedness and an important public health priority for Malaysia, which is health security.

5. To ensure that this initiative is a success, the role of partnerships such as a potential WHO platform for city-to-city cooperation on urban health emergency preparedness (under the Global Strategic Preparedness Network (GSPN) is vital.
6. With regards to Influenza Preparedness, Malaysia has developed a comprehensive yet multi-sectoral preparedness plan called National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan (NIPPP). Apart from serving as a guide for preparedness and response plan for an Influenza pandemic, it provides a policy and strategic framework for a multi-sectoral response and contains specific advice and actions to be undertaken at the different levels, other governmental departments and agencies, and non-governmental organizations to ensure that resources are mobilized and used most efficiently before, during and after an Influenza pandemic episode.
7. It is essential to improve and strengthen the sharing of influenza viruses and other respiratory viruses with epidemic and pandemic potential via the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System, which is referred to as "GISRS+".
8. Malaysia could not agree more that GISRS+ is a good initiative and believes it will benefit all Member States. Hence, timely influenza virus and other respiratory viruses sharing and use by all Member States are important to ensure that another pandemic could be contained and the impact of a pandemic could be minimized.

9. Malaysia takes notes of the report provided and wishes to commend WHO for this Global Health for Peace Initiative. The Peace Initiative is a clear exemplification that WHO continues to support Member States that are affected at the socio-political context and conflict-afflicted.
10. Evidently, when a nation is hit by a crisis, it is imperative that the community is empowered, and one of the components is mental health and psychosocial support. Malaysia was recently struck by a crisis within a crisis when we were hit by the devastating major floods during the pandemic. Whilst the government deployed various agencies, NGOs had also worked tirelessly to assist the flood victims.
11. In the recent flood crisis, it was observed that there was also the need for mental health and psychosocial support at ground zero. Hence, the Ministry of Health had deployed Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) teams through the district to provide psychosocial support services to flood victims, health care workers, and frontlines who are affected emotionally.
12. A total of 125,490 people was affected by the floods in Malaysia 117,700 evacuees however have returned home. To date, 73,807 Psychological First Aid (PFA) were provided at flood evacuation centres which include relaxation therapy, psychoeducation, and art therapy. Throughout this period, our services were strengthened by partnerships and multisectoral collaboration with agencies, local universities, and NGOs.

13. Ultimately, this Initiative will benefit many member states and therefore Malaysia is highly supportive of the EB adopting the Global Health for Peace Initiative.

Thank you.