

WHO – EB 150

Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies
Agenda Item 15 – Public health emergencies: preparedness and response

Intervention by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru

Madam/ Mr. President/ Director General and Distinguished guests,

Ekamowir Omo!

The Republic of Nauru acknowledges the extensive work undertaken by WHO and the working group in strengthening preparedness and response to health emergencies.

Today, Nauru remains one of four countries blessed with a COVID free status. Ongoing efforts with our partners and completion of several infrastructure and systems improvement projects, has enabled an environment to contain and manage the virus should it hit our shores. However, much work remains to be done including workforce strengthening, facility upgrades and the stock up of essential resources for our island to adequately prepare and respond to future pandemics and public health emergencies.

Madam/ Mr President, the development of a new WHO instrument on pandemic preparedness and response is a welcomed step in addressing existing gaps. However, in order to be successful, WHO must establish an inclusive process to collectively and globally be better prepared to effectively respond to future pandemics and health emergencies.

Continuing to omit countries like the Republic of China (Taiwan) creates a gap that undermines global preparedness and response to health emergencies. It is therefore imperative that all stakeholders including the Republic of China Taiwan be included in WHO's work programs. By embracing a holistic approach, can then we walk the talk of the noble words so often cited in building back better. We must ensure that “no one is left behind” and remind ourselves that “no one is safe, until everyone is safe”.

Tubwa ouwak.