

**Item 3: Outcome of the second Special Session of the World Health Assembly, held to consider developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response.**

*Word Count: 238 (1.45 minutes)*

- Tēnā koutou kātoa. Director-General Tedros, esteemed members of the Executive Board, and fellow delegates:
- New Zealand welcomes the outcome of the World Health Assembly Special Session to establish an intergovernmental negotiating body, which is tasked with drafting and negotiating a new instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.
- The decision to establish the INB gives us hope that through our collaboration, commitment and constructive joint effort, Member States can help ensure the world never again faces a global health crisis of this magnitude.
- The hardest part of our task is yet to come. We have an intensive period of negotiations ahead of us, the modalities of which must enable all Member States (those large and small, developed and developing) to participate effectively.
- We must develop substantive elements for the new instrument, while also considering targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations and other reforms.
- Consistency between these workstreams will be essential if we are to produce a coherent and cohesive global health system that is effective, and addresses pressing health needs at the country, regional and global levels.
- This is no easy task. However, New Zealand is confident that working together, Member States can agree the critical improvements to global health architecture that we so clearly require.
- As we say in Te Reo Māori, the indigenous language of New Zealand, *me mahi tahi tātou u mo te oranga katoa* – we are working together for the wellbeing of all.