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AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES ET
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משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

WHO Executive Board 2023
Statement by the State of Israel
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Item #12.1- Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

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The WHO has an important role to play in leading emergency preparedness activities and proposing appropriate guidelines. Israel embraces the three pillars of HEPR architecture - governance, systems and financing - as applicable to all emergency scenarios. Enhancing broad stakeholder collaboration, strengthening health infrastructure, and improving service management are key to any emergency response. Israel also shares the priority areas of health promotion, primary health care, and health security.

In this light, Israel views the document's proposals broadly favorably.

A Global Health Emergency Council will serve as a useful tool for international data management and sharing as long as member states are represented by delegates. Meanwhile, suitably amending international mechanisms such as the IHR, is crucial for guiding data-driven policy. We must also find the correct balance between international cooperation and state-led responsibilities: self-assessments are important, but so are common monitoring tools like the JEE.

Strengthening the health emergency workforce lies at the heart of any emergency strategy. It is thus crucial to recognize emergency workforce as specialized units of importance.

Furthermore, tools that help contain health emergencies merit investment by the WHO. Speaking more broadly, collaboration between finance and health decision-makers are essential for securing appropriate budgets. The WHO has a role in identifying necessary funding for scaling activities and defining budgetary support provided by the WHO.

Strengthening the Pandemic Fund, and expanding funding for scalable and sustainable emergency responses are both admirable proposals. Finally, strengthening the WHO at the center of the global HEPR architecture is very important, as long as specialists from member states play an active role.