

Nowregian full statement for online posting

24.3: SCHEPPR

- We thank the DG for transmitting the report of the first meeting of the Standing Committee.
- This Committee will enable MS to have more regular, in-depth engagement with each other and the Secretariat on strengthening WHO's capacities in health emergencies, and to conduct oversight. We hope this will lead to sustained attention and systematic follow-up of such issues.
- Regarding the functions of this committee upon the declaration of a public health emergency of international concern, it is of the utmost importance that the Committee underpins WHO's strong, rapid response based on the best available evidence.
- We therefore appreciate the explicit reference in the terms of reference that the committee shall work in a manner respectful of and complementary to the scientific technical advice provided by the Emergency Committee of the International Health Regulations, and that it shall consider the immediate capacities of the WHO's health emergencies programme in such situations.
- We underline the importance that deliberations are conducted on the basis of transparency as foreseen in the terms of reference. This will be crucial to safeguard trust from the international community in the response that WHO and its Member States provide to future crises.
- On the three options on the terms of membership, Norway favours option 1.