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**Agenda item 11.2 / A72-6/ A72-7 / A72-8**
- Report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
- WHO’s work in health emergencies
- International Health Regulations (2005)

**Statement:**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

With reference to the documents under review, Suriname compliments the WHO for their leadership in health emergencies.

The report assures that capacity building is done to be sure that health workers are capable of handling emergency situations. The way they handle the situation can often determine the outcome of such an emergency situation. Training in this area is certainly a must not only for healthcare workers but also training for groups that can be of assistance in these situations.

One of these important groups is the media. Nearly 17 years ago when HIV related headline in the news got the attention of many which was at times used by the media to sell their news. Given this fact, the Ministry of Health in Collaboration with the PAHO trained media workers in what the role of the media in the HIV response.

In cases of health emergencies, the media can be a great asset if provided with the right information in a timely manner. We therefore suggest that training specific for and with the media on their possible role should be developed and implemented. Furthermore, the health authorities should be willing and ready to give the media the right information when asked or even provide information before being asked. This can decrease the chance of incorrect information sharing.

Lastly, the document mentions that the WHO and partners were asked to designate 2019 as a Year of Action however the way that this was done or will be done is not clear.

Thank you, chair.