TALKING POINTS:

- We thank the Secretariat for the draft global Strategy and draft Global Plan of Action. We appreciated the additional consultations and refinements to these documents since the Executive Board meeting.

- The United States recognizes the link between human health, the environment and climate and supports WHO’s efforts in this area when directly linked to the organization’s core mandate. We are pleased that overall the strategy in many regards presents a measureable and practical set of activities, grounded in areas where WHO and the health sector can be most effective.

- The updates to the documents better focus on areas where WHO best adds value – providing technical support and capacity building to Member States’ health systems. Nonetheless, elements of these documents go beyond this focus.
• We would like to reiterate our position that WHO not insert itself into the business of other fora by advocating for Member States to take specific positions, or by shaping negotiating positions of Member States. We do not support WHO creating new funds for climate and health in particular countries. In carrying out the Strategy and Plan of Action, the WHO Secretariat should avoid duplicating efforts already underway under other relevant multilateral bodies.

• We support WHO’s efforts to address cross-sector environmental health risk factors and encourage WHO’s work to address air pollution as the fifth major risk factor for noncommunicable disease.

• We recognize the unique challenges facing the health care systems of many small island developing states, some of which are shared with other island and coastal communities, including in our own country.

• To support resilience of health care facilities, the US Department of Health and Human Services developed, through a public-private partnership with the healthcare industry, the Sustainable and Climate Resilient Health Care Facilities toolkit. The toolkit has a suite of online tools that highlight emerging best practices for developing sustainable and climate-resilient health care facilities and a guide with information on threats to health care facilities posed by extreme weather events and ways in which organizations are responding to those threats.

• We appreciate the explicit linkages to bolstering health security and emergency response, and encourage WHO to continue supporting Member
States in developing their health systems, and encouraging international and intersectoral partnerships which are all central to advance global health.