

**76th World Health Assembly
23 May 2023**

Ireland - National Statement Agenda Item 3

- Honourable Chair,
- [Distinguished Director-General,]
- Distinguished Delegates,

- I wish to align with the statement made by Sweden on behalf of the EU.

- I reiterate Ireland's continued support for WHO's essential work and its central role in the global health architecture.

- I also want to recognise the WHO's vital contribution to health in emergencies, including through important instruments such as the Contingency Fund for Emergencies, which Ireland is proud to support.

- Mechanisms such as this enable WHO to respond effectively to emergencies, for example, the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria; and the consequences of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. Ireland condemns this continued aggression against Ukraine, including attacks on healthcare facilities as documented by the WHO.
- Chair, I want to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of our healthcare workers, in particular during the recent very testing years. They are at the heart of our health services. We call for their protection and an end to all attacks on healthcare facilities and workers globally.
- In responding to the pandemic, we have seen how important it is to be agile and to respond with a variety of tools and approaches. Ensuring equity of access to testing, treatment and vaccines remains a priority.
- We welcome the work underway to amend the International Health Regulations and to develop a new international agreement on Pandemic Preparedness, Prevention and Response.

- We strongly support the steps being taken to place the financing of the WHO on a more sustainable footing.
- Ireland welcomes the agreement reached on the Resolution on Accelerated Action on Global Drowning Prevention, to be adopted during this World Health Assembly. This Resolution provides a platform for a more coordinated and effective approach to a long overlooked and preventable public health challenge.
- To finish, I want to congratulate the WHO on its 75th anniversary and to wish it continued success in saving lives and driving health for all.
- Thank you.

ENDS