



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly**  
**21 May - 30 May 2023 • Geneva, Switzerland**

Agenda	14.1	The Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
	14.2	Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)
	15.1 (a)	Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies – • Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and Resilience
	15.2	WHO’s work in health emergencies: Public health emergencies: preparedness and response

**Requested Actions:**

1. Reflect on the recommendations of the independent oversight and advisory committee and provide guidance to the Secretariat.
2. To note the reports and provide guidance on how the Secretariat can best provide support to the Member States in:
  - Accelerating their implementation of national action plans for health security (NAPHS), including through implementation of the new five-year NAPHS strategy (2022–2026);
  - Enabling them to make effective use of data-driven tools such as the dynamic preparedness metric to enhance the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and build sustainable preparedness for health emergencies;
  - Expanding their capacities in the priority areas identified in the One Health Joint Action Plan.
  - How can WHO Member States continue to strengthen implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the next two years, bearing in mind that they will still be considering the proposed amendments to the Regulations, and that those amendments, if adopted by the Health Assembly in 2024, will only enter into force in 2025?
  - How can the Secretariat best support Member States, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in strengthening the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)?



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Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines appreciates the report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee. It aligns with our firm conviction that the highest-level buy-in of processes to strengthen global health emergency preparedness, response and resilience architecture is necessary to ensure dependable whole-of-government and -society actions to support national operational readiness for collaborative surveillance; community protection; safe and scalable care; access to countermeasures; and emergency coordination.

The Philippine agencies on health, agriculture and environment and natural resources take collective actions to strengthen surveillance. Our COVID-19 experience showed how Member States, especially the Lower- and Middle- Income Countries, needed support to respond to pandemics because of major gaps in surveillance systems, including the lack of concrete structures or established mechanisms for governance and overlapping functions and mandates for various authorities, agencies, and sectors in terms of surveillance and response. As we negotiate a global accord on strengthening pandemic preparedness, prevention and response, Member States must build capacities in sharing and interpreting epidemiological data; adopting policies and strategies; and establishing implementation plans, in accordance with national laws, across public and private sector and relevant agents, consistent with the IHR; as well as in reinforcing public health functions for surveillance, including the One Health approach, outbreak investigation and control, through interoperable early warning and alert systems.

The World Together needs to help the most vulnerable nations in strengthening the

implementation of International Health Regulations. We sincerely thank the Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs for the leadership and the secretariat's support in facilitating informal consultations to consolidate and align a number of amendment proposals, thereby ensuring an inclusive and member states-led process.

The Philippines also reiterates its firm position that weakness in implementation of IHR initiatives and activities should not be subjected to penalization. The delegation also firmly believes that a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) is an effective process as its framework consists of a voluntary, collaborative, multisectoral process to assess country capacities; and that any new framework for peer review mechanisms should ensure that risk of bias is addressed and that respect for national standards and processes is always upheld. Thank you.**END**