



## SAMOA'S STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM A76/9 "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS 2005"

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to give this statement on behalf of Samoa government to acknowledge with gratitude the consolidated report on the Implementation and proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations 2005.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank WHO for its continuous support for Samoa, especially during measles epidemic in 2019 and COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the COVID-19 threats upon our island, we highly acknowledge the technical support of WHO through provision of updated information on this global pandemic and various variants. We thank WHO for:

- (i) Identification of the virus
- (ii) Identification of tests available
- (iii) Identification of different variants of COVID-19 which enabled us to expedite discovery and implementation of COVID-19 vaccination and
- (iv) Support and assistance in other areas such as risk communication and community engagement, procurement of needed resources and supplies as well as capacity building for clinical, allied and support staff.



We also congratulate WHO, government of Australia DFAT, World Bank and other development partners for speeding up the process which helps Samoa very much with strengthening its public health system through e-health developments.

These contribute very much with the effective domestication of International Health Regulations 2005 Core Capacities by Samoa during implementation of COVID-19 preparedness and responses in the past three years.

We are fully aware of many challenges we faced because of COVID-19, but this cannot stop Samoa from reviewing its health systems and its preparations to respond to future epidemics and pandemics that may pose on its nation which thus affect the health and well-being of our people.

We firmly believe that effective public health emergency response requires a united effort; hence all sectors in Samoa are united by our commitment through multi-sectoral and integrated approach to realize our Healthy Island Vision and ensuring healthy lives of our people and sustainable future for all. Embracing the Whole-of-Country, All-of-Government and Sector-Wide Approaches, is Samoa's homegrown solution to prepare and manage epidemics and pandemics.

While the challenges we face with our health system at the moment are significant, I know that we, as Small Islands Developing States are making progress in minimizing the risks not only COVID-19 but other infectious diseases outbreaks that may pose on our health systems, and welcome the efforts of our Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and the Assembly to get our views on what WHO should do more to assist and how to tackle these challenges.

I believe that together, we can save lives and drive health for all.

Thank You.