On the agenda of the EB: 146/1

Mister Chairman,

First, we wish you good luck in leading the EB session and we are confident that you will be most successful. We would like to inform you and EB members that Israel will not be able to participate in the meeting from Friday afternoon (around 5pm) due to Israeli civil service regulations with regard to the Jewish holy day, Shabbat.

Thank you,

Mister Chairman,

First, we wish you good luck in leading us through this challenging EB and we are confident that you will be most successful.

The agenda of the coming EB is very heavy and led to the decision to prolong it to Saturday. We do not mind taking as many night sessions as needed, but we will not be able to participate in the sessions starting Friday afternoon (16:00) and Saturday due to Israeli civil service regulations with regard to the Jewish holy day, Shabbat.

All of the items on the agenda before us are important but we have a request to include a few of them in our work plan before Friday afternoon. These items include 22.4 Provisional agenda of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly, 24.2 Participation in the Program Budget and Administration Committee and 22.1 WHO reform – written statements. We will appreciate your support.
Item 5: Regional reports: 146/4

Thank you for the report highlighting interesting activities and achievements from different regions and focusing on topics for global discussion.

We would like to support the contribution of the Africa region, the Americas and the Western Pacific, emphasizing the importance of providing technical support to improve data quality at the country level by national health information systems, and the need to implement country focus guidance on harmonized data to determine impact, including capacity building measures. It is an opportunity to underline the importance we see in the norms setting role of WHO and the capacity building related to enhancement of quality of data this organization provides.

With regard to the development of a universal health index separate from the SDG framework, we agree with the concerns raised by the Americas region regarding additional indicators relating to areas of key importance for public health and recommend they are as few as possible.

We would also like to support the Regional Committee for Europe’s recommendation to provide an annual overview of planned requests for reporting, consultations and questionnaires, which would help to ensure timeliness of reporting, effective coordination, preparations and the efficient use of resources.

[Adding to that, we think it is very important to be as focused as possible in requests for information from member states. For example, this year we received a new survey of IHR specifically on emergency preparedness. We recommend integrating it with the regular IHR survey, since there are duplications and additions that can be integrated. We hope this survey will be used to develop guidelines for emergency preparedness for countries according to the findings.]

We welcome the recommendation of the Western Pacific region to strengthen the attention to gender equity in all areas of work of the WHO.