

**AGENDA ITEM 19.2: Programme Budget 2022-23**

(Word Count: 343)

**INTERVENTION**

Canada thanks the Secretariat for this comprehensive overview of revisions to the program budget for Pillar 2.

It will be important for Pillar two activities to be linked or integrated with the broader work of the Organization on One Health, health systems strengthening, universal health coverage, and determinants of health. This will avoid development of parallel systems or disconnected functions, and contribute to stronger prevention, preparedness and response.

We appreciate the references to monitoring and addressing risks at the animal-human interface, and would propose that where possible, the animal-human-environment interface be considered for a true One Health approach.

We would like to ask for further information on preparedness assessments. The IPPPR found that our current measures were not predictive of country performance in the COVID-19 response, and that we require a fundamental reassessment of how we measure preparedness. The revised program budget refers to updates of the SPAR and JEE, as well as development and rollout of the UHPR. We would like to ask whether these components are a full reflection of WHO's plan going forward, or if other activities are also planned.

We are pleased to see that WHO is accelerating the application of its gender mainstreaming strategy across all initiatives, and we would be interested in hearing what actions the WHO has taken to develop systems and tools to manage the impacts of health emergencies on gender equality.

We welcome that the proposed budget revision includes resource requirements to strengthen accountability, compliance and risk management with a special focus on the Organization's capacity to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

Finally, we call on the Secretariat, in line with the PBAC recommendation, to hold consultations with Member States on the revision of the Programme Budget during the intersessional period, particularly as consideration turns to revisions for pillars 1, 3, and 4.

An opportunity for earlier and more in-depth engagement in budget and budget development discussions across the three levels of the organization is an important part of what Member States are looking for when we talk about increased transparency.