



Statement by Msgr. John David Putzer, First Secretary, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other
International Organisations in Geneva to the 150th Session of the Executive Board of the
World Health Organisation

Geneva, 24 – 29 January 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

Under these unprecedented circumstances in which the Executive Board of the WHO is gathering, my delegation welcomes the continuation of discussions on, *inter alia*, developing an international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response.

In this respect, the decision made by Member States at the second Special Session of the World Health Assembly is particularly encouraging and well-timed. It represents a tangible sign of the commitment needed on the part of the international community to adopt concerted and resolute decisions that prioritize the need for equity and solidarity among all peoples.

In his recent annual address to the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, Pope Francis welcomed these efforts, stating: “*I would urge all States, who are working to establish an international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response under the aegis of the World Health Organization, to adopt a policy of generous sharing as a key principle to guarantee everyone access to diagnostic tools, vaccines and drugs*”¹. Such an approach is critical to ensure universal access to safe, effective and affordable medical care.

In this context, my Delegation appreciates the efforts of this Executive Board to facilitate discussions and to endorse genuinely comprehensive and inclusive measures that may be considered by Member States during the 75th World Health Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson

¹ Cf. Pope Francis, Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, 10 Jan. 2022.