



## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### 150<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

#### National Statement on Agenda Item 15.2 Standing Committee on Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness and Response

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##### **1. Thank you Chair**

2. Kenya aligns her statement with that delivered by Ghana on behalf of the Member States of the WHO Africa Region.
3. Our statement will focus on Agenda item 15.2 - Proposed Standing Committee on Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness and Response.
4. We thank the Republic of Austria for their leadership in this endeavor and appreciate the discussions that have already occurred within the informal Member States consultations on this subject.
5. In view of the significance of this issue, we would wish to see these discussions continue so that Member States can have a clear and common understanding on the functions and added value of such an organ.
6. In this regard, Kenya takes note of the Director General's report contained in document EB150/17 and wishes to make the following observations:
  - a. From a procedural standpoint, Kenya wishes to register reservations with the establishment of any sub-committee of the Executive Board before the terms of reference have been exhaustively deliberated on and agreed by Member States. We therefore support the proposal made by Ghana to defer these discussions to a later date or to the auspices of the WGPR for further deliberation.
  - b. Secondly, we wish to underscore the importance of such a committee exercising powers that are consistent with those limited to the mandate of

- the Executive Board. As such, Kenya favours rules of procedure similar to those of the PBAC and with no decision-making authority whatsoever.
- c. Third, we wish to avoid confusion and overlap as much as possible. As such, the lines of communication between such an entity and the WHO management must be clear and should at no time circumvent the Executive Board. It therefore follows that any reports, guidance or recommendations of the subcommittee must be channeled through the EB and not directly to the Director General as contained in the EB document.
7. We look forward to subsequent discussions on the terms of reference for the subcommittee in the coming months.
  - 8. I thank you**