



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

150TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

National Statement on Agenda 3: Outcome of the Second special session of the World Health Assembly

1. Thank you Chair

2. Kenya aligns her statement with that delivered by Botswana on behalf of the Member States of the WHO Africa Region.
3. We thank the Director General and his staff for successfully convening the Second special session of the World Health Assembly which considered the benefits of developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response.
4. In this regard, we wish to appreciate the efforts of the Co-Chairs and the Bureau of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to health emergencies for their leadership in guiding the deliberations of Member States.
5. Chair, The COVID-19 pandemic has brought global health and WHO into sharp focus, in addition to highlighting the gaps we need to address in preventing, preparing for, and responding to health emergencies.

6. In our view, the lack of timely and equitable access to vaccines and other medical countermeasures has had the most detrimental effect to the global response to the pandemic.
7. Therefore, we strongly support the African position that Equity should be both a guiding principle and a goal in respect of access to medical countermeasures and tools in the context of a global pandemic.
8. Chair, Kenya has been a strong proponent of the development of a new legally binding pandemic treaty and will remain committed to support all efforts to realize this important achievement.
9. We therefore eagerly anticipate the election of the Officers of the INB including its operationalization within the coming months.
10. We wish to underscore the importance of balancing any proposed obligations on Member States with tangible incentives including development of mechanisms to address the need for increased financial and technical resources, technology and know-how sharing, in support of resilient health systems.

11. I thank you