

Portugal

World Health Organization 150th Session of the Executive Board (24th - 29th January 2021)

15.3 WHO's work in health emergencies Geneva, 27th January 2021

Chair,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

As we continue to live in the COVID pandemic and battling the virus, other health emergencies and needs arise.

Because we understand well the need to respond rapidly to disease outbreaks and health emergencies, we contributed to WHO's Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE).

In the past two years, the CFE has been of the utmost relevance, given its flexible nature that enables it to act quickly in health emergencies. We believe that the funds released by the CFE to respond to 16 emergencies in 15 countries and territories made a substantive difference and saved many lives.

Chair,

An important part of health emergency preparedness and readiness relies on the evaluation of International Health Regulations (2005) capacities. On this, we commend the work of the secretariat in developing the UHPR mechanism and its concept. We believe this will be a great tool to improve global core capacities in a collective manner. Portugal volunteered as pilot country and is strongly committed with the UHPR process. We believe that the UHPR will help sharing policies, technical expertise and best practices across Member States and support them in scaling preparedness. Furthermore, it will allow a transparent and

rigorous exercise of self and peer evaluation of national capacities. The universal character of this exercise is fundamental and a key for its success.

Thank you