

Agenda Item 2: Report of the Director General

Dear Madam Chair, Dr. Tedros, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Preamble

Greetings and Happy New Year!

1. It is indeed a profound **honor for me to lead the Malaysian delegation** as an Executive Board Member for the Western Pacific Region and to participate in this 152nd session of the WHO's Executive Board Meeting here in Geneva.
2. **My appointment as Health Minister** under the premiership of the Unity Government comes at a crucial time, intersecting global crises with the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus caused by highly transmissible new omicron sub-variants, deteriorating climate conditions and natural ecosystems, and struggling economic growth. Being the very first woman in Malaysia to hold this position gives me a great sense of pride as I have always been passionate about striving for girls and women around the world to believe in themselves and to soar to greater heights.
3. Moving forward, this year we have a high commitment to work together to address critical gaps that remain in health emergency prevention, preparedness, and response, including strengthening **International Health Regulations (IHR)** and the potential amendments in addition to brainstorming at the **Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) meetings**. Malaysia believes that the targeted amendments proposed will further enhance global health security with respect to the principles of equity, accountability, and transparency and the sovereign process of Member States. As Chair of the Standing Committee for Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (SCHEPPR), Malaysia will continue to work closely with the Members.
4. As we have heard today, the gravity of the **NCD** epidemic is increasing in all countries, and one of the greatest disease threats in the Western Pacific

Region, which accounts for 87% of all deaths in 2019. We see a disturbing trend of late, whereby NCDs are affecting younger people. This is a solemn reminder for us all to keep persevering with the preventive work being done around the globe.

5. In this regard I wish to acknowledge the **WPRO's Regional Action Framework for NCD Prevention and Control**, it paints a roadmap to transform our healthcare system to turn a sick system that focuses on treating diseases into a health system in which countries invest in healthy environments, behavior change, and NCD Prevention and early detections.
6. At this juncture, I am delighted to highlight the great work done by the team to champion the agenda of behavioral science for better health. I sincerely wish to thank all our Co-sponsors and the Member States who had actively participated in the series of Informal Consultations that took place for this resolution. I humbly seek the Board's support and consensus to move forth the draft resolution at the 76th World Health Assembly.
7. We are cognizant of the barriers that people globally face in accessing healthcare. The social determinants of health need to be addressed as we adopt a Health in All policies across the Ministries.
8. I wish to take this opportunity to briefly speak on **global surgery**. It is imperative for us to explore on pooling of resources amongst the Member States, in terms of assets, training of both surgeons and non-doctors, medicines, and supplies. Malaysia would be delighted to host a Side Event at the upcoming 76th World Health Assembly in May. We welcome the support of our fellow Executive Board members and look forward to innovative viewpoints on surgical care system strengthening.
9. Malaysia's in kind contribution to WHO by hosting the Global Service Centre on our soil over decades is something we take great pride in. We look forward to the signing of the renewal of the Host Country Agreement with Dr Tedros tomorrow.

10. I wish to reiterate what Dr. Tedros mentioned at the Extension of the General Program of Work 2019-2025 on 13th January 2022

“Although we have made progress, it’s clear that we are far behind where we need to be, especially in relation to universal health coverage.”

On that note, I thank you for your attention, and may we all have a fruitful and productive session at this EB.

Thank you Chair.