



MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

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Ref: GEN/104/01/26 (49) Vol. II

30th April, 2026

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director -General
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Your Excellency,

On behalf of my government, and pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly (WHA), as well as UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, I hereby request the inclusion of the supplementary item entitled "Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer" in the provisional agenda for the 79th session of the WHA.

Health is a fundamental human right and a universal value. Global health security is interconnected. At a time when the world is facing growing threats from infectious diseases including avian influenza like H5N1 and the continuous evolution of COVID-19 variants, as well as the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases and aging populations, international public health cooperation is more important than ever. The world cannot afford to exclude any stakeholder from participation in the global health system.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to urge countries to strengthen their surveillance and response measures, Taiwan remains outside of relevant mechanisms. This persistent exclusion is based upon a wrongful interpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1, which in fact do not preclude Taiwan's participation in WHO, and has seriously undermined the international community's collective ability to detect, prevent, and respond to public health threats. Taiwan's participation—through the sharing of its public health expertise, surveillance data, and response capabilities—would significantly enhance global preparedness and resilience, advancing humanity toward the vision of Health for All.

Prior to 2017, Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years. Taiwan's professionalism and expertise were widely recognized and acclaimed by WHO and its members. Taiwan has shown the world that it is a valuable and indispensable partner in the collective effort to ensure that all people enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

At a time when WHO's ability to continue its disease prevention and response efforts across the world is under unprecedented strain, Taiwan stands ready to contribute in areas where it has already shown consistent generosity to the international community, such as vaccine assistance, laboratory capacity-building, and technical partnerships. By leveraging its robust health infrastructure and cutting-edge digital healthcare systems, Taiwan is prepared to assist with the closing of critical gaps in the provision of healthcare worldwide.

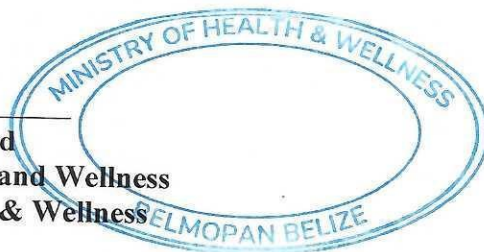
With the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement at the 78th WHA, it is more urgent than ever for WHO to bring in all stakeholders. Given its success in addressing COVID-19 and other emerging health threats, Taiwan should be invited to participate in the WHA as an observer and permitted to attend all WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan's involvement would significantly strengthen global health governance while securing the fundamental right to health of its 23.5 million people.

My government hopes that the WHA will accept the inclusion of this item. To this end, a draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum are appended for further discussion. Moreover, in order that the General Committee may properly fulfill its mandate and report to the WHA for a final decision, my government formally requests that the present letter and its enclosure be circulated as an official document of the WHA. In this respect, my government recalls Rule 19 of the WHA Rules of Procedure, which stipulates the duty of the Secretariat regarding the circulation of documents.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

Yours in Health,


Hon. Kevin Bernard
Minister of Health and Wellness
Ministry of Health & Wellness



DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly,

Reaffirming that the fundamental objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, and that Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;

Acknowledging that Taiwan contributed greatly to combating the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to the health emergency in Ukraine, that Taiwan provides timely medical and humanitarian aid to countries in need, and that Taiwan's public health experience and expertise are valuable to efforts to make global health architecture more resilient and improve prevention, preparedness, and response for future pandemics;

Expressing grave concern that Taiwan, an indispensable member of the international community and a provider of international humanitarian assistance to numerous WHO member states, is not fully included in all WHO technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, including the Pandemic Agreement;

Recalling that from 2009 to 2016, Taiwan, a force for good in the world, was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer, making constructive contributions to global health security;

Recognizing that only when Taiwan is directly and properly included in the international community's collective efforts to combat disease can WHO's ultimate goal of Health for All be achieved; and

Realizing that in the fight against emerging diseases, WHO must remain informed of all health concerns worldwide and be able to obtain and disseminate relevant data needed to prevent, monitor, and respond to epidemics and other diseases;

Hereby invites Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer.

Explanatory memorandum

29th April, 2026

Proposal submitted by Belize

Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer

Belize considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030—and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
- Taiwan's participation in the WHA is a health issue, not a political one. Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years from 2009 to 2016. Its participation was widely recognized and acclaimed.
- Taiwan has demonstrated that it is an indispensable member of the international community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan continues to share resources and knowledge with and offer technical assistance to WHO member states.
 - In 2013 and 2017, respectively, Taiwan made notification of and shared information on H6N1 and H7N9 avian influenza cases, as well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.
 - In December 2019, Taiwan's disease surveillance system picked up a notice issued regarding pneumonia of unknown cause in China and reported it to WHO. This important alert was one of the first that WHO received concerning COVID-19, as noted in the main report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. The experience of COVID-19 demonstrated that the present global health governance framework could be more effective by including all parties in responding to threats to global

health. Therefore, it is critical that countries across the globe unite to bolster health governance.

- Taiwan manufacturer Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. was the first private manufacturer to license its COVID-19 vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool. This demonstrates that Taiwan has world-class biotechnology and medical treatments that can contribute to global health security.
- Taiwan has been contributing to global efforts to realize the right to health. These efforts include improving medical care in small South Pacific island nations; enhancing nutrition for women and children affected by an earthquake in Haiti; training aid workers to provide psychological support to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Romania; bolstering climate change adaptability in the Caribbean; and improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene at healthcare facilities in Kenya. Furthermore, Taiwan has provided humanitarian assistance through postdisaster recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti, and Nepal.
- Taiwan is a global leader in medical technology and digital health. By enhancing health information systems in Paraguay, collaborating with Palau National Hospital on smart healthcare, and introducing smart healthcare facilities in Eswatini, Taiwan has demonstrated a commitment to helping partner countries improve their health systems. Including Taiwan in WHO would add valuable expertise and advance smart, resilient, and inclusive healthcare worldwide.
- Taiwan is committed to achieving universal health coverage and has consistently improved the quality of its healthcare system in line with WHO recommendations. Taiwan has ranked first in Numbeo's Health Care Index since 2019 and has been named the best healthcare system by CEOWORLD since 2023. Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, supported by an integrated database and robust digital infrastructure, played a key role in Taiwan's effective pandemic response by enabling real-time data use and efficient resource coordination. Taiwan's inclusion in WHO—especially its substantive involvement in mechanisms such as the Global Digital Health Certificate Network (GDHCN), Alliance for Food Safety, International

Health Regulation (IHR), WHO Coronavirus Network (CoViNet), WHO Emergency Medical Team, and WHO Pandemic Agreement—would greatly benefit the global health system, particularly in the fight against communicable diseases.

- My government urges WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, set aside political considerations, and include Taiwan in all technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS &
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

OUR REF: MOFAIC 17/30

DATE: 6 May 2026

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director General of the World Health Organization

**INVITING TAIWAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AS AN
OBSERVER IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 79TH SESSION OF THE
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

Your Excellency,

On behalf of my government, and pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly (WHA), as well as UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, I hereby request the inclusion of the supplementary item entitled "Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer" in the provisional agenda for the 79th session of the WHA.

Health is a fundamental human right and a universal value. Global health security is interconnected. At a time when the world is facing growing threats from infectious diseases including avian influenza like H5N1 and the continuous evolution of COVID-19 variants, as well as the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases and aging populations, international public health cooperation is more important than ever. The world cannot afford to exclude any stakeholder from participation in the global health system.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to urge countries to strengthen their surveillance and response measures, Taiwan remains outside of relevant mechanisms. This persistent exclusion is based upon a wrongful interpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1, which in fact do not preclude Taiwan's participation in WHO, and has

seriously undermined the international community's collective ability to detect, prevent, and respond to public health threats. Taiwan's participation—through the sharing of its public health expertise, surveillance data, and response capabilities—would significantly enhance global preparedness and resilience, advancing humanity toward the vision of Health for All.

Prior to 2017, Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years. Taiwan's professionalism and expertise were widely recognized and acclaimed by WHO and its members. Taiwan has shown the world that it is a valuable and indispensable partner in the collective effort to ensure that all people enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

At a time when WHO's ability to continue its disease prevention and response efforts across the world is under unprecedented strain, Taiwan stands ready to contribute in areas where it has already shown consistent generosity to the international community, such as vaccine assistance, laboratory capacity-building, and technical partnerships. By leveraging its robust health infrastructure and cutting-edge digital healthcare systems, Taiwan is prepared to assist with the closing of critical gaps in the provision of healthcare worldwide.

With the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement at the 78th WHA, it is more urgent than ever for WHO to bring in all stakeholders. Given its success in addressing COVID-19 and other emerging health threats, Taiwan should be invited to participate in the WHA as an observer and permitted to attend all WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan's involvement would significantly strengthen global health governance while securing the fundamental right to health of its 23.5 million people.

My government hopes that the WHA will accept the inclusion of this item. To this end, a draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum are appended for further discussion. Moreover, in order that the General Committee may properly fulfill its mandate and report to the WHA for a final decision, my government formally requests that the present letter and its enclosure be circulated as an official document of the WHA. In this respect, my government recalls Rule 19 of the WHA Rules of Procedure, which stipulates the duty of the Secretariat regarding the circulation of documents.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

Yours sincerely,


SIZWE N. NTSHANGASE
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY



Explanatory Memorandum

(6 May 2026)

Proposal submitted by the Kingdom of Eswatini

Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer

The Kingdom of Eswatini considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030—and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
- Taiwan's participation in the WHA is a health issue, not a political one. Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years from 2009 to 2016. Its participation was widely recognized and acclaimed.
- Taiwan has demonstrated that it is an indispensable member of the international community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan continues to share resources and knowledge with and offer technical assistance to WHO member states.
 - In 2013 and 2017, respectively, Taiwan made notification of and shared information on H6N1 and H7N9 avian influenza cases, as well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.
 - In December 2019, Taiwan's disease surveillance system picked up a notice issued regarding pneumonia of unknown cause in China and reported it to WHO. This important alert was one of the first that WHO received concerning COVID-19, as noted in the main report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. The experience of COVID-19 demonstrated that the present global health governance framework could be more effective by including all parties in responding to threats to global health. Therefore, it is critical that countries across the globe unite to bolster health governance.
 - Taiwan manufacturer Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. was the first private manufacturer to license its COVID-19 vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool. This demonstrates that Taiwan has world-class biotechnology and medical treatments that can contribute to global health security.

- Taiwan has been contributing to global efforts to realize the right to health. These efforts include improving medical care in small South Pacific island nations; enhancing nutrition for women and children affected by an earthquake in Haiti; training aid workers to provide psychological support to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Romania; bolstering climate change adaptability in the Caribbean; and improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene at healthcare facilities in Kenya. Furthermore, Taiwan has provided humanitarian assistance through postdisaster recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti, and Nepal.
- Taiwan is a global leader in medical technology and digital health. By enhancing health information systems in Paraguay, collaborating with Palau National Hospital on smart healthcare, and introducing smart healthcare facilities in Eswatini, Taiwan has demonstrated a commitment to helping partner countries improve their health systems. Including Taiwan in WHO would add valuable expertise and advance smart, resilient, and inclusive healthcare worldwide.
- Taiwan is committed to achieving universal health coverage and has consistently improved the quality of its healthcare system in line with WHO recommendations. Taiwan has ranked first in Numbeo's Health Care Index since 2019 and has been named the best healthcare system by CEOWORLD since 2023. Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, supported by an integrated database and robust digital infrastructure, played a key role in Taiwan's effective pandemic response by enabling real-time data use and efficient resource coordination. Taiwan's inclusion in WHO—especially its substantive involvement in mechanisms such as the Global Digital Health Certificate Network (GDHCN), Alliance for Food Safety, International Health Regulation (IHR), WHO Coronavirus Network (CoViNet), WHO Emergency Medical Team, and WHO Pandemic Agreement—would greatly benefit the global health system, particularly in the fight against communicable diseases.
- My Government urges WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, set aside political considerations, and include Taiwan in all technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.

Translated from Spanish

Government of the Republic of Guatemala
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

No. M1-OE/2/1242

The Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the World Health Organization and has the honour to transmit herewith the note from the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Maria Luisa Ramirez Coronado, to His Excellency Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, relating to the request for the inclusion on the provisional agenda of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly of a supplementary item entitled “Inviting Taiwan to participate in the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly as an observer”, in accordance with Article 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

The Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva would be grateful to the Secretariat of the World Health Organization for its assistance in transmitting the note to the Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva takes this opportunity to convey to the World Health Organization the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 11 May 2026

World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland

Translated from Spanish

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Guatemala City

Ref. SUBONU-968-2026
Guatemala City, 8 May 2026

Dear Dr Tedros,

I have the honour to write to you in connection with the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, to be held from 18 to 23 May 2026 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

In this context, I wish to note the importance of including all interested parties in efforts to address health emergencies, strengthen health systems and prevent diseases. I also highlight the work done by the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the form of international cooperation, which has enabled other Member States to strengthen their national health systems with a view to achieving universal health coverage.

Accordingly, I hereby request the inclusion on the provisional agenda of the World Health Assembly of a supplementary item entitled “Inviting Taiwan to participate in the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly as an observer”, in accordance with Article 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

I take this opportunity to renew, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Maria Luisa Ramirez Coronado
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

His Excellency
Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Office of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

Explanatory memorandum

05/11/2026

Proposal submitted by the Republic of Guatemala

Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer

Guatemala considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030—and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
- Taiwan's participation in the WHA is a health issue, not a political one. Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years from 2009 to 2016. Its participation was widely recognized and acclaimed.
- Taiwan has demonstrated that it is an indispensable member of the international community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan continues to share resources and knowledge with and offer technical assistance to WHO member states.
- In 2013 and 2017, respectively, Taiwan made notification of and shared information on H6N1 and H7N9 avian influenza cases, as

well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.

- In December 2019, Taiwan's disease surveillance system picked up a notice issued regarding pneumonia of unknown cause in China and reported it to WHO. This important alert was one of the first that WHO received concerning COVID-19, as noted in the main report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. The experience of COVID-19 demonstrated that the present global health governance framework could be more effective by including all parties in responding to threats to global health. Therefore, it is critical that countries across the globe unite to bolster health governance.
- Taiwan manufacturer Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. was the first private manufacturer to license its COVID-19 vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool. This demonstrates that Taiwan has world-class biotechnology and medical treatments that can contribute to global health security.
- Taiwan has been contributing to global efforts to realize the right to health. These efforts include improving medical care in small South Pacific island nations; enhancing nutrition for women and children affected by an earthquake in Haiti; training aid workers to provide psychological support to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Romania; bolstering climate change adaptability in the Caribbean; and improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene at healthcare facilities in Kenya. Furthermore, Taiwan has provided humanitarian assistance through postdisaster recovery

and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti, and Nepal.

- Taiwan is a global leader in medical technology and digital health. By enhancing health information systems in Paraguay, collaborating with Palau National Hospital on smart healthcare, and introducing smart healthcare facilities in Eswatini, Taiwan has demonstrated a commitment to helping partner countries improve their health systems. Including Taiwan in WHO would add valuable expertise and advance smart, resilient, and inclusive healthcare worldwide.
- Taiwan is committed to achieving universal health coverage and has consistently improved the quality of its healthcare system in line with WHO recommendations. Taiwan has ranked first in Numbeo's Health Care Index since 2019 and has been named the best healthcare system by CEOWORLD since 2023. Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, supported by an integrated database and robust digital infrastructure, played a key role in Taiwan's effective pandemic response by enabling real-time data use and efficient resource coordination. Taiwan's inclusion in WHO—especially its substantive involvement in mechanisms such as the Global Digital Health Certificate Network (GDHCN), Alliance for Food Safety, International Health Regulation (IHR), WHO Coronavirus Network (CoViNet), WHO Emergency Medical Team, and WHO Pandemic Agreement—would greatly benefit the global health system, particularly in the fight against communicable diseases.
- My government urges WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, set aside political considerations, and include Taiwan in all

technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.

Translated from French

Republic of Haiti

Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

MPH-ONUG/CFP/0290-2026

The Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the World Health Organization (WHO) and has the honour to transmit herewith a note dated 8 May 2026 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Haiti, Her Excellency Ms Raina FORBIN, relating to the support of the Republic of Haiti for the participation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) at the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly (WHA), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 to 23 May 2026.

Please find attached a draft resolution as well as an explanatory memorandum.

The Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva takes this opportunity to convey to the World Health Organization the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 11 May 2026

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Translated from French

Republic of Haiti
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship
The Minister

Port-au-Prince, 8 May 2026
EC/0732

Dear Dr Tedros,

I have the honour, in advance of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly (WHA), of expressing the support of Government of Haiti for the participation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) as an observer to the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly.

The expertise of Taiwan in terms of epidemiological surveillance, health crisis management and development of medical technology is a precious resource of which the Organization and its Member States must not be deprived.

The technical participation of Taiwan would enable:

- Real-time information sharing on emerging health threats;
- Increased collaboration on the health-related sustainable development goals; and
- Recognition of the Taiwanese health model as a source of inspiration for various health systems.

I am convinced that the presence of Taiwan in Geneva will increase the effectiveness of our discussions and serve the best interests of global public health.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed)
[For] Raina Forbin

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)

Translated from French

Explanatory memorandum

11 May 2026

Proposal submitted by the Republic of Haiti

Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer

The Republic of Haiti considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3 – ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030 – and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
- Taiwan's participation in the WHA is a health issue, not a political one. Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years from 2009 to 2016. Its participation was widely recognized and acclaimed.
- Taiwan has demonstrated that it is an indispensable member of the international community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan continues to share resources and knowledge with and offer technical assistance to WHO Member States.
 - In 2013 and 2017, Taiwan made notification of and shared information on H6N1 and H7N9 avian influenza cases as well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.
 - In December 2019, Taiwan's disease surveillance system picked up a notice issued by China regarding pneumonia of unknown cause and reported it to WHO. This important alert was one of the first that WHO received concerning COVID-19, as noted in the main report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. Although COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern, the experience demonstrated that the present global health governance framework is not effective in responding to threats to global health. Therefore, it is critical that countries across the globe unite to bolster health governance.

- Taiwan manufacturer Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. was the first private manufacturer to license its COVID-19 vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool. This demonstrates that Taiwan has world-class biotechnology and medical treatments that can contribute to global health security.
- Taiwan has been contributing to global efforts to realize the right to health. These efforts include improving medical care in small South Pacific island nations; enhancing nutrition for women and children affected by an earthquake in Haiti; training aid workers to provide psychological support to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Romania; bolstering climate change adaptability in the Caribbean; and improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene at healthcare facilities in Kenya. Furthermore, Taiwan has provided humanitarian assistance through post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti and Nepal.
- Taiwan is a global leader in medical technology and digital health. By enhancing health information systems in Paraguay, collaborating with Palau National Hospital on smart healthcare and introducing smart healthcare facilities in Eswatini, Taiwan has demonstrated a commitment to helping partner countries to improve their health systems. Including Taiwan in WHO would add valuable expertise and advance smart, resilient, and inclusive healthcare worldwide.
- Taiwan is committed to achieving universal health coverage and has consistently improved the quality of its healthcare system in line with WHO recommendations. Taiwan has ranked first in Numbeo's Health Care Index since 2019 and has been named the top healthcare system by CEOWORLD since 2023. Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, supported by an integrated database and robust digital infrastructure, played a key role in Taiwan's effective pandemic response by enabling real-time data use and efficient resource coordination. Taiwan's inclusion in WHO – especially its substantive involvement in mechanisms such as the Global Digital Health Certificate Network (GDHCN), the Alliance for Food Safety, the International Health Regulations (IHR), the WHO Coronavirus Network (CoViNet), the WHO Emergency Medical Team and the WHO Pandemic Agreement – would greatly benefit the global health system, particularly in the fight against communicable diseases.

- My Government urges WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, to set aside political considerations and to include Taiwan in all technical meetings, mechanisms and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS TO
THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
GENEVA**

WHO/02-26

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the World Health Organization and has the honour to transmit herewith the enclosed letter from Hon. Kalani R. Kaneko, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, addressed to H.E Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization, requesting the inclusion of a supplementary item in the provisional agenda for the 79th session of the World Health Assembly

In this regard, the Permanent Mission has the further honor to seek the latter's kind assistance in ensuring the said letter reaches its most esteemed destination.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the World Health Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.



**World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva**



Republic of the Marshall Islands
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
P.O. Box 1349 | Majuro, MH 96960 | Phone: (692) 625-3181

May 11, 2026

H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director General
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia-CH-1221
Geneva, Switzerland

Your Excellency,

On behalf of my government, and pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly (WHA), as well as UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, I hereby request the inclusion of the supplementary item entitled “Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer” in the provisional agenda for the 79th session of the WHA.

Health is a fundamental human right and a universal value. Global health security is interconnected. At a time when the world is facing growing threats from infectious diseases including avian influenza like H5N1 and the continuous evolution of COVID-19 variants, as well as the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases and aging populations, international public health cooperation is more important than ever. The world cannot afford to exclude any stakeholder from participation in the global health system.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to urge countries to strengthen their surveillance and response measures, Taiwan remains outside of relevant mechanisms. This persistent exclusion is based upon a wrongful interpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1, which in fact do not preclude Taiwan’s participation in WHO, and has seriously undermined the international community’s collective ability to detect, prevent, and respond to public health threats. Taiwan’s participation—through the sharing of its public health expertise, surveillance data, and response capabilities—would significantly enhance global preparedness and resilience, advancing humanity toward the vision of Health for All.

Prior to 2017, Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years. Taiwan’s professionalism and expertise were widely recognized and acclaimed by WHO and its members. Taiwan has shown the world that it is a valuable and indispensable partner in the collective effort to ensure that all people enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

At a time when WHO's ability to continue its disease prevention and response efforts across the world is under unprecedented strain, Taiwan stands ready to contribute in

areas where it has already shown consistent generosity to the international community, such as vaccine assistance, laboratory capacity-building, and technical partnerships. By leveraging its robust health infrastructure and cutting-edge digital healthcare systems, Taiwan is prepared to assist with the closing of critical gaps in the provision of healthcare worldwide.

With the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement at the 78th WHA, it is more urgent than ever for WHO to bring in all stakeholders. Given its success in addressing COVID-19 and other emerging health threats, Taiwan should be invited to participate in the WHA as an observer and permitted to attend all WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan's involvement would significantly strengthen global health governance while securing the fundamental right to health of its 23.5 million people.

My government hopes that the WHA will accept the inclusion of this item. To this end, a draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum are appended for further discussion. Moreover, in order that the General Committee may properly fulfill its mandate and report to the WHA for a final decision, my government formally requests that the present letter and its enclosure be circulated as an official document of the WHA. In this respect, my government recalls Rule 19 of the WHA Rules of Procedure, which stipulates the duty of the Secretariat regarding the circulation of documents.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hon. Kalani R. Kaneko', written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Kalani R. Kaneko
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Republic of the Marshall Islands
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
P.O. Box 1349 | Majuro, MH 96960 | Phone: (692) 625-3181

Enclosure 1: DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly,

Reaffirming that the fundamental objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, and that Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;

Acknowledging that Taiwan contributed greatly to combating the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to the health emergency in Ukraine, that Taiwan provides timely medical and humanitarian aid to countries in need, and that Taiwan's public health experience and expertise are valuable to efforts to make global health architecture more resilient and improve prevention, preparedness, and response for future pandemics;

Expressing grave concern that Taiwan, an indispensable member of the international community and a provider of international humanitarian assistance to numerous WHO member states, is not fully included in all WHO technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, including the Pandemic Agreement;

Recalling that from 2009 to 2016, Taiwan, a force for good in the world, was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer, making constructive contributions to global health security;

Recognizing that only when Taiwan is directly and properly included in the international community's collective efforts to combat disease can WHO's ultimate goal of Health for All be achieved; and

Realizing that in the fight against emerging diseases, WHO must remain informed of all health concerns worldwide and be able to obtain and disseminate relevant data needed to prevent, monitor, and respond to epidemics and other diseases;

Hereby invites Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer.

Enclosure 2: Explanatory memorandum

The Republic of the Marshall Islands considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030—and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
- Taiwan's participation in the WHA is a health issue, not a political one. Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years from 2009 to 2016. Its participation was widely recognized and acclaimed.
- Taiwan has demonstrated that it is an indispensable member of the international community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan continues to share resources and knowledge with and offer technical assistance to WHO member states.
- In 2013 and 2017, respectively, Taiwan made notification of and shared information on H6N1 and H7N9 avian influenza cases, as well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.
- In December 2019, Taiwan's disease surveillance system picked up a notice issued regarding pneumonia of unknown cause in China and reported it to WHO. This important alert was one of the first that WHO received concerning COVID-19, as noted in the main report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. The experience of COVID-19 demonstrated that the present global health governance framework could be more effective by including all parties in responding to threats to global health. Therefore, it is critical that countries across the globe unite to bolster health governance.
- Taiwan manufacturer Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. was the first private manufacturer to license its COVID-19 vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool. This demonstrates that Taiwan has world-class biotechnology and medical treatments that can contribute to global health security.
- Taiwan has been contributing to global efforts to realize the right to health. These efforts include improving medical care in small South Pacific island nations; enhancing nutrition for women and children affected by an earthquake in Haiti; training aid workers to provide psychological support to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Romania; bolstering climate change adaptability in the Caribbean; and improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene at healthcare facilities in Kenya. Furthermore, Taiwan has provided humanitarian assistance through postdisaster recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti, and Nepal.
- Taiwan is a global leader in medical technology and digital health. By enhancing health information systems in Paraguay, collaborating with Palau National

- Hospital on smart healthcare, and introducing smart healthcare facilities in Eswatini, Taiwan has demonstrated a commitment to helping partner countries improve their health systems. Including Taiwan in WHO would add valuable expertise and advance smart, resilient, and inclusive healthcare worldwide.
- Taiwan is committed to achieving universal health coverage and has consistently improved the quality of its healthcare system in line with WHO recommendations. Taiwan has ranked first in Numbeo's Health Care Index since 2019 and has been named the best healthcare system by CEOWORLD since 2023. Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, supported by an integrated database and robust digital infrastructure, played a key role in Taiwan's effective pandemic response by enabling real-time data use and efficient resource coordination. Taiwan's inclusion in WHO—especially its substantive involvement in mechanisms such as the Global Digital Health Certificate Network (GDHCN), Alliance for Food Safety, International Health Regulation (IHR), WHO Coronavirus Network (CoViNet), WHO Emergency Medical Team, and WHO Pandemic Agreement—would greatly benefit the global health system, particularly in the fight against communicable diseases.
- My government urges WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, set aside political considerations, and include Taiwan in all technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.



REPUBLIC OF PALAU
Office of the Vice President
and
Ministry of Health & Human Services



May 7th 2026

MHHSodw : 053-26

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director General

World Health Organization

Geneva, Switzerland

Subject : Proposal for Supplementary Agenda Item

Your Excellency,

On behalf of my government, and pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly (WHA), as well as UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, I hereby request the inclusion of the supplementary item entitled "Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer" in the provisional agenda for the 79th session of the WHA.

Health is a fundamental human right and a universal value. Global health security is interconnected. At a time when the world is facing growing threats from infectious diseases including avian influenza like H5N1 and the continuous evolution of COVID-19 variants, as well as the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases and aging populations, international public health cooperation is more important than ever. The world cannot afford to exclude any stakeholder from participation in the global health system.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to urge countries to strengthen their surveillance and response measures, Taiwan remains outside of relevant

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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REPUBLIC OF PALAU
Office of the Vice President
and
Ministry of Health & Human Services



mechanisms. This persistent exclusion is based upon a wrongful interpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1, which in fact do not preclude Taiwan's participation in WHO, and has seriously undermined the international community's collective ability to detect, prevent, and respond to public health threats. Taiwan's participation—through the sharing of its public health expertise, surveillance data, and response capabilities—would significantly enhance global preparedness and resilience, advancing humanity toward the vision of Health for All.

Prior to 2017, Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years. Taiwan's professionalism and expertise were widely recognized and acclaimed by WHO and its members. Taiwan has shown the world that it is a valuable and indispensable partner in the collective effort to ensure that all people enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

At a time when WHO's ability to continue its disease prevention and response efforts across the world is under unprecedented strain, Taiwan stands ready to contribute in areas where it has already shown consistent generosity to the international community, such as vaccine assistance, laboratory capacity-building, and technical partnerships. By leveraging its robust health infrastructure and cutting-edge digital healthcare systems, Taiwan is prepared to assist with the closing of critical gaps in the provision of healthcare worldwide.

With the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement at the 78th WHA, it is more urgent than ever for WHO to bring in all stakeholders. Given its success in addressing COVID-19 and other emerging health threats, Taiwan should be invited to participate in the WHA as an observer and permitted to attend all WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan's involvement would significantly strengthen global health governance while securing the fundamental right to health of its 23.5 million people.

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REPUBLIC OF PALAU
Office of the Vice President
and
Ministry of Health & Human Services



My government hopes that the WHA will accept the inclusion of this item. To this end, a draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum are appended for further discussion.

Moreover, in order that the General Committee may properly fulfill its mandate and report to the WHA for a final decision, my government formally requests that the present letter and its enclosure be circulated as an official document of the WHA. In this respect, my government recalls Rule 19 of the WHA Rules of Procedure, which stipulates the duty of the Secretariat regarding the circulation of documents.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

Respectfully,

The Hon. Raynold B. Oilouch, JD.
Vice President & Minister of Health



Enclosure 1/

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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Email: administration@palauhealth.org

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly,

Reaffirming that the fundamental objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, and that Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;

Acknowledging that Taiwan contributed greatly to combating the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to the health emergency in Ukraine, that Taiwan provides timely medical and humanitarian aid to countries in need, and that Taiwan's public health experience and expertise are valuable to efforts to make global health architecture more resilient and improve prevention, preparedness, and response for future pandemics;

Expressing grave concern that Taiwan, an indispensable member of the international community and a provider of international humanitarian assistance to numerous WHO member states, is not fully included in all WHO technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, including the Pandemic Agreement;

Recalling that from 2009 to 2016, Taiwan, a force for good in the world, was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer, making constructive contributions to global health security;

Recognizing that only when Taiwan is directly and properly included in the international community's collective efforts to combat disease can WHO's ultimate goal of Health for All be achieved; and

Realizing that in the fight against emerging diseases, WHO must remain informed of all health concerns worldwide and be able to obtain and disseminate relevant data needed to prevent, monitor, and respond to epidemics and other diseases;

Hereby invites Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer.

Explanatory Memorandum

07 May 2026

Proposal submitted by the Republic of Palau

Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer

The Republic of Palau considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030—and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
 - Taiwan's participation in the WHA is a health issue, not a political one. Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years from 2009 to 2016. Its participation was widely recognized and acclaimed.
 - Taiwan has demonstrated that it is an indispensable member of the international community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan continues to share resources and knowledge with and offer technical assistance to WHO member states.
- In 2013 and 2017, respectively, Taiwan made notification of and shared information on H6N1 and H7N9 avian influenza cases, as well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.
 - In December 2019, Taiwan's disease surveillance system picked up a notice issued regarding pneumonia of unknown cause in China and reported it to WHO. This important

alert was one of the first that WHO received concerning COVID-19, as noted in the main report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. The experience of COVID-19 demonstrated that the present global health governance framework could be more effective by including all parties in responding to threats to global health. Therefore, it is critical that countries across the globe unite to bolster health governance.

- Taiwan manufacturer Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. was the first private manufacturer to license its COVID-19 vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool. This demonstrates that Taiwan has world-class biotechnology and medical treatments that can contribute to global health security.
- Taiwan has been contributing to global efforts to realize the right to health. These efforts include improving medical care in small South Pacific island nations; enhancing nutrition for women and children affected by an earthquake in Haiti; training aid workers to provide psychological support to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Romania; bolstering climate change adaptability in the Caribbean; and improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene at healthcare facilities in Kenya. Furthermore, Taiwan has provided humanitarian assistance through postdisaster recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti, and Nepal.
- Taiwan is a global leader in medical technology and digital health. By enhancing health information systems in Paraguay, collaborating with Palau National Hospital on smart healthcare, and introducing smart healthcare facilities in Eswatini, Taiwan has demonstrated a commitment to helping partner countries improve their health systems. Including Taiwan in WHO would add valuable expertise and advance smart, resilient, and inclusive healthcare worldwide.
- Taiwan is committed to achieving universal health coverage and has consistently improved the quality of its healthcare system in line with WHO recommendations. Taiwan

has ranked first in Numbeo's Health Care Index since 2019 and has been named the best healthcare system by CEOWORLD since 2023. Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, supported by an integrated database and robust digital infrastructure, played a key role in Taiwan's effective pandemic response by enabling real-time data use and efficient resource coordination. Taiwan's inclusion in WHO—especially its substantive involvement in mechanisms such as the Global Digital Health Certificate Network (GDHCN), Alliance for Food Safety, International Health Regulation (IHR), WHO Coronavirus Network (CoViNet), WHO Emergency Medical Team, and WHO Pandemic Agreement—would greatly benefit the global health system, particularly in the fight against communicable diseases.

- My government urges WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, set aside political considerations, and include Taiwan in all technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.

Translated from Spanish

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Paraguay

Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

MPG/OI/No. 44/2026

Ref.: transmitting a note from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay to the WHO Director-General

The Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the World Health Organization (WHO) and refers to the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, to be held in Geneva from 18 to 23 May 2026.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission transmits a copy of the note from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay, Ambassador Victor Verdún, to His Excellency Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization.

The Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the World Health Organization (WHO) the assurances of its highest consideration.

(Signed)

Geneva, 7 May 2026

To the
World Health Organization (WHO)
Geneva, Swiss Confederation
RCR/arc/sp

Translated from Spanish

Republic of Paraguay
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

VMRE/DGPM/DOI/No. 194/2026

Asunción, 7 May 2026

Dear Dr Tedros,

I have the honour to write to Your Excellency to request the inclusion of the item “Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer” as a supplementary item on the provisional agenda of the Seventy-ninth session of the World Health Assembly (WHA).

In this respect, the Government of the Republic of Paraguay wishes to reiterate its view that addressing the participation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the World Health Assembly constitutes a timely and necessary matter. Therefore, it is important to highlight that the inclusion of Taiwan in the Health Assembly as an observer between the years 2009 and 2016 was widely valued by the international community, as it made a significant contribution to strengthening cooperation in global health.

It is also important to underscore that Taiwan has shown itself to be a relevant and indispensable actor in international public health promotion, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its capacity for sharing information, resources and technical assistance with other Member States has demonstrated the added value of its participation in multilateral health platforms.

In this context, the participation of Taiwan in the Organization’s mechanisms, networks and technical activities, as well as its possible inclusion as an observer in the World Health Assembly, would help to strengthen international cooperation and contribute in a substantive manner to the common goal of ensuring a more resilient, inclusive and effective global health system.

For these reasons, the Government of Paraguay encourages the World Health Organization to maintain a technical and neutral approach that favours participation of all relevant actors for the benefit of global public health.

I wish to take this opportunity to convey, Your Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Ambassador Victor Verdún

Deputy Minister

His Excellency

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director-General of the World Health Organization

Geneva, Swiss Confederation

Explanatory memorandum

May 7th, 2026

Proposal submitted by Paraguay

Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer

Paraguay considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030—and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
- Taiwan's participation in the WHA is a health issue, not a political one. Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years from 2009 to 2016. Its participation was widely recognized and acclaimed.
- Taiwan has demonstrated that it is an indispensable member of the international community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan continues to share resources and knowledge with and offer technical assistance to WHO member states.
- In 2013 and 2017, Taiwan made notification of and shared information on H6N1 and H7N9 avian influenza cases as well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.
- In December 2019, Taiwan's disease surveillance system picked up a notice issued by China regarding pneumonia of unknown cause and reported it to WHO. This important alert was one of the first that WHO received concerning COVID-19, as noted in the main report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. Although COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern, the experience demonstrated that the present global health governance framework is not effective in responding to threats to global health. Therefore, it is critical that countries across the globe unite to bolster health governance.

- Taiwan manufacturer Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. was the first private manufacturer to license its COVID-19 vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool. This demonstrates that Taiwan has world-class biotechnology and medical treatments that can contribute to global health security.
- Taiwan has been contributing to global efforts to realize the right to health. These efforts include improving medical care in small South Pacific island nations; enhancing nutrition for women and children affected by an earthquake in Haiti; providing psychological support to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Romania as well as aid workers; bolstering climate change adaptability in the Caribbean; and improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene at healthcare facilities in Kenya. Furthermore, Taiwan has provided humanitarian assistance through postdisaster recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti, and Nepal.
- Taiwan is a leader in medical technology and digital health. Through projects such as health information system enhancement in Paraguay and smart healthcare collaboration with Palau National Hospital, Taiwan has helped partner countries improve their health systems. These successes show Taiwan's ability to support global digital health goals. Including Taiwan in WHO would add valuable expertise to advance smart, resilient, and inclusive healthcare worldwide.
- Taiwan is committed to achieving universal health coverage and has consistently improved the quality of healthcare in line with WHO recommendations. Taiwan has ranked first in Numbeo's Health Care Index since 2019 and was named the top healthcare system by CEOWORLD in 2023. Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, supported by an integrated database and robust digital infrastructure, played a key role in Taiwan's effective pandemic response by enabling real-time data use and efficient resource coordination. Taiwan's inclusion in WHO—especially its substantive involvement in mechanisms such as the prospective pandemic agreement, the International Health Regulations, the Western Pacific Regional Office, and the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System—would greatly benefit the global health system, particularly in the fight against communicable diseases.
- My government urges WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, set aside political considerations, and include Taiwan in all technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly,

Reaffirming that the fundamental objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, and that Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;

Acknowledging that Taiwan contributed greatly to combating the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to the health emergency in Ukraine, that Taiwan provides timely medical and humanitarian aid to countries in need, and that Taiwan's public health experience and expertise are valuable to efforts to make global health architecture more resilient and improve prevention, preparedness, and response for future pandemics;

Expressing grave concern that Taiwan, an indispensable member of the international community and a provider of international humanitarian assistance to numerous WHO member states, is not fully included in all WHO technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, including the Pandemic Agreement;

Recalling that from 2009 to 2016, Taiwan, a force for good in the world, was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer, making constructive contributions to global health security;

Recognizing that only when Taiwan is directly and properly included in the international community's collective efforts to combat disease can WHO's ultimate goal of Health for All be achieved; and

Realizing that in the fight against emerging diseases, WHO must remain informed of all health concerns worldwide and be able to obtain and disseminate relevant data needed to prevent, monitor, and respond to epidemics and other diseases;

**Hereby invites Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly
as an observer.**



GOVERNMENT OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

at 6B Bladen Commercial Development, Wellington Road, P.O. Box 186, BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS

TEL: (869) 465 2521, (869) 467 1298

EMAIL: health@gov.kn

8th May 2026

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
World Health Organization (WHO)
dgooffice@who.int

PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEM

Your Excellency Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,

On behalf of my government, and pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly (WHA), as well as UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, I hereby request the inclusion of the supplementary item entitled "Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer" in the provisional agenda for the 79th session of the WHA.

Health is a fundamental human right and a universal value. Global health security is interconnected. At a time when the world is facing growing threats from infectious diseases including avian influenza like H5N1 and the continuous evolution of COVID-19 variants, as well as the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases and aging populations, international public health cooperation is more important than ever. The world cannot afford to exclude any stakeholder from participation in the global health system.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to urge countries to strengthen their surveillance and response measures, Taiwan remains outside of relevant mechanisms. This persistent exclusion is based upon a wrongful interpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1, which in fact do not preclude Taiwan's participation in WHO, and has seriously undermined the international community's collective ability to detect, prevent, and respond to public health threats. Taiwan's participation—through the sharing of its public health expertise, surveillance data, and response capabilities—would significantly enhance global preparedness and resilience, advancing humanity toward the vision of Health for All.

Prior to 2017, Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years. Taiwan's professionalism and expertise were widely recognized and acclaimed by WHO and its members. Taiwan has shown the world that it is a valuable and indispensable partner in the collective effort to ensure that all people enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.





GOVERNMENT OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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/2

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
World Health Organization (WHO)
dgoffice@who.int

At a time when WHO's ability to continue its disease prevention and response efforts across the world is under unprecedented strain, Taiwan stands ready to contribute in areas where it has already shown consistent generosity to the international community, such as vaccine assistance, laboratory capacity-building, and technical partnerships. By leveraging its robust health infrastructure and cutting-edge digital healthcare systems, Taiwan is prepared to assist with the closing of critical gaps in the provision of healthcare worldwide.

With the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement at the 78th WHA, it is more urgent than ever for WHO to bring in all stakeholders. Given its success in addressing COVID-19 and other emerging health threats, Taiwan should be invited to participate in the WHA as an observer and permitted to attend all WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan's involvement would significantly strengthen global health governance while securing the fundamental right to health of its 23.5 million people.

My government hopes that the WHA will accept the inclusion of this item. To this end, a draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum are appended for further discussion. Moreover, in order that the General Committee may properly fulfill its mandate and report to the WHA for a final decision, my government formally requests that the present letter and its enclosure be circulated as an official document of the WHA. In this respect, my government recalls Rule 19 of the WHA Rules of Procedure, which stipulates the duty of the Secretariat regarding the circulation of documents.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Terrance Drew
Prime Minister/Minister of Health, St. Kitts and Nevis

Cc: Steven Solomon, Principal Legal Officer, WHO
Claudia Nannini, Legal Office, WHO



DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly,

Reaffirming that the fundamental objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, and that Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;

Acknowledging that Taiwan contributed greatly to combating the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to the health emergency in Ukraine, that Taiwan provides timely medical and humanitarian aid to countries in need, and that Taiwan's public health experience and expertise are valuable to efforts to make global health architecture more resilient and improve prevention, preparedness, and response for future pandemics;

Expressing grave concern that Taiwan, an indispensable member of the international community and a provider of international humanitarian assistance to numerous WHO member states, is not fully included in all WHO technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, including the Pandemic Agreement;

Recalling that from 2009 to 2016, Taiwan, a force for good in the world, was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer, making constructive contributions to global health security;

Recognizing that only when Taiwan is directly and properly included in the international community's collective efforts to combat disease can WHO's ultimate goal of Health for All be achieved; and

Realizing that in the fight against emerging diseases, WHO must remain informed of all health concerns worldwide and be able to obtain and disseminate relevant data needed to prevent, monitor, and respond to epidemics and other diseases;

**Hereby invites Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly
as an observer.**

Explanatory memorandum

May 8, 2026

Proposal submitted by St. Kitts and Nevis

Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer

St. Kitts and Nevis considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030—and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
- Taiwan's participation in the WHA is a health issue, not a political one. Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years from 2009 to 2016. Its participation was widely recognized and acclaimed.
- Taiwan has demonstrated that it is an indispensable member of the international community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan continues to share resources and knowledge with and offer technical assistance to WHO member states.
- In 2013 and 2017, respectively, Taiwan made notification of and shared information on H6N1 and H7N9 avian influenza cases, as

well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.

- In December 2019, Taiwan's disease surveillance system picked up a notice issued regarding pneumonia of unknown cause in China and reported it to WHO. This important alert was one of the first that WHO received concerning COVID-19, as noted in the main report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. The experience of COVID-19 demonstrated that the present global health governance framework could be more effective by including all parties in responding to threats to global health. Therefore, it is critical that countries across the globe unite to bolster health governance.
- Taiwan manufacturer Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. was the first private manufacturer to license its COVID-19 vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool. This demonstrates that Taiwan has world-class biotechnology and medical treatments that can contribute to global health security.
- Taiwan has been contributing to global efforts to realize the right to health. These efforts include improving medical care in small South Pacific island nations; enhancing nutrition for women and children affected by an earthquake in Haiti; training aid workers to provide psychological support to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Romania; bolstering climate change adaptability in the Caribbean; and improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene at healthcare facilities in Kenya. Furthermore, Taiwan has provided humanitarian assistance through postdisaster recovery

and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti, and Nepal.

- Taiwan is a global leader in medical technology and digital health. By enhancing health information systems in Paraguay, collaborating with Palau National Hospital on smart healthcare, and introducing smart healthcare facilities in Eswatini, Taiwan has demonstrated a commitment to helping partner countries improve their health systems. Including Taiwan in WHO would add valuable expertise and advance smart, resilient, and inclusive healthcare worldwide.
- Taiwan is committed to achieving universal health coverage and has consistently improved the quality of its healthcare system in line with WHO recommendations. Taiwan has ranked first in Numbeo's Health Care Index since 2019 and has been named the best healthcare system by CEOWORLD since 2023. Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, supported by an integrated database and robust digital infrastructure, played a key role in Taiwan's effective pandemic response by enabling real-time data use and efficient resource coordination. Taiwan's inclusion in WHO—especially its substantive involvement in mechanisms such as the Global Digital Health Certificate Network (GDHCN), Alliance for Food Safety, International Health Regulation (IHR), WHO Coronavirus Network (CoViNet), WHO Emergency Medical Team, and WHO Pandemic Agreement—would greatly benefit the global health system, particularly in the fight against communicable diseases.
- My government urges WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, set aside political considerations, and include Taiwan in all

technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.



GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA
Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade,
Civil Aviation and Diaspora Affairs

*Communication on this subject
should be addressed to:*
The Permanent Secretary

*5th Level, Baywalk, Rodney Bay
Gros Islet, Saint Lucia
Tel: (758) 468-4519/452 1178
Fax: (758) 452-7427
Email: external@gosl.gov.lc*

May 6, 2026

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organisation
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva27
Switzerland

RE: PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEM

Dear Dr. Ghebreyesus,

On behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia, and pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly (WHA), as well as United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 3, I hereby request the inclusion of the supplementary item entitled “Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer” in the provisional agenda for the 79th session of the WHA.

Health is a fundamental human right and a universal value. Global health security is interconnected. At a time when the world is facing growing threats from infectious diseases including avian influenza like H5N1 and the continuous evolution of COVID-19 variants, as well as the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases and aging populations, international public health cooperation is more important than ever. The world cannot afford to exclude any stakeholder from participation in the global health system.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to urge countries to strengthen their surveillance and response measures, Taiwan remains outside of relevant mechanisms. This persistent exclusion is based upon a wrongful interpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1, which in fact do not preclude Taiwan’s participation in WHO, and has seriously undermined the international community’s collective ability to detect, prevent, and respond to public health threats. Taiwan’s participation, through the sharing of its public health expertise, surveillance data,

and response capabilities, would significantly enhance global preparedness and resilience, advancing humanity toward the vision of Health for All.

Prior to 2017, Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years. Taiwan's professionalism and expertise were widely recognized and acclaimed by WHO and its members. Taiwan has shown the world that it is a valuable and indispensable partner in the collective effort to ensure that all people enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

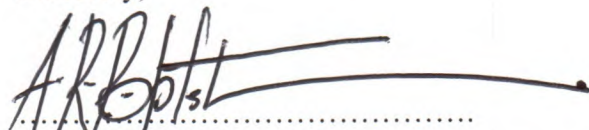
At a time when WHO's ability to continue its disease prevention and response efforts across the world is under unprecedented strain, Taiwan stands ready to contribute in areas where it has already shown consistent generosity to the international community, such as vaccine assistance, laboratory capacity-building, and technical partnerships. By leveraging its robust health infrastructure and cutting-edge digital healthcare systems, Taiwan is prepared to assist with the closing of critical gaps in the provision of healthcare worldwide.

With the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement at the 78th WHA, it is more urgent than ever for WHO to bring in all stakeholders. Given its success in addressing COVID-19 and other emerging health threats, Taiwan should be invited to participate in the WHA as an observer and permitted to attend all WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan's involvement would significantly strengthen global health governance while securing the fundamental right to health of its 23.5 million people.

The Government of Saint Lucia hopes that the WHA will accept the inclusion of this item. To this end, a draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum are appended for further discussion. Moreover, in order that the General Committee may properly fulfil its mandate and report to the WHA for a final decision, the Government of Saint Lucia formally requests that the present letter and its enclosure be circulated as an official document of the WHA. In this respect, Saint Lucia recalls Rule 19 of the WHA Rules of Procedure, which stipulates the duty of the Secretariat regarding the circulation of documents.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'AR Baptiste', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alva R. Baptiste
Minister for External Affairs

Encl 1/Draft Resolution

Encl 2/Explanatory Memorandum

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Seventy-Ninth World Health Assembly,

Reaffirming that the fundamental objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, and that Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;

Acknowledging that Taiwan contributed greatly to combating the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to the health emergency in Ukraine, that Taiwan provides timely medical and humanitarian aid to countries in need, and that Taiwan's public health experience and expertise are valuable to efforts to make global health architecture more resilient and improve prevention, preparedness, and response for future pandemics;

Expressing grave concern that Taiwan, an indispensable member of the international community and a provider of international humanitarian assistance to numerous WHO member states, is not fully included in all WHO technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, including the Pandemic Agreement;

Recalling that from 2009 to 2016, Taiwan, a force for good in the world, was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer, making constructive contributions to global health security;

Recognizing that only when Taiwan is directly and properly included in the international community's collective efforts to combat disease can WHO's ultimate goal of Health for All be achieved; and

Realizing that in the fight against emerging diseases, WHO must remain informed of all health concerns worldwide and be able to obtain and disseminate relevant data needed to prevent, monitor, and respond to epidemics and other diseases;

Saint Lucia hereby invites Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer.

May 6, 2026

Proposal submitted by Saint Lucia

Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer

Saint Lucia considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030—and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
- Taiwan's participation in the WHA is a health issue, not a political one. Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years from 2009 to 2016. Its participation was widely recognized and acclaimed.
- Taiwan has demonstrated that it is an indispensable member of the international community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan continues to share resources and knowledge with and offer technical assistance to WHO member states.
- In 2013 and 2017, respectively, Taiwan made notification of and shared information on H6N1 and H7N9 avian influenza cases, as well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.

- In December 2019, Taiwan's disease surveillance system picked up a notice issued regarding pneumonia of unknown cause in China and reported it to WHO. This important alert was one of the first that WHO received concerning COVID-19, as noted in the main report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. The experience of COVID-19 demonstrated that the present global health governance framework could be more effective by including all parties in responding to threats to global health. Therefore, it is critical that countries across the globe unite to bolster health governance.
- Taiwan manufacturer Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. was the first private manufacturer to license its COVID-19 vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool. This demonstrates that Taiwan has world-class biotechnology and medical treatments that can contribute to global health security.
- Taiwan has been contributing to global efforts to realize the right to health. These efforts include improving medical care in small South Pacific island nations; enhancing nutrition for women and children affected by an earthquake in Haiti; training aid workers to provide psychological support to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Romania; bolstering climate change adaptability in the Caribbean; and improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene at healthcare facilities in Kenya. Furthermore, Taiwan has provided humanitarian assistance through post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti, and Nepal.
- Taiwan is a global leader in medical technology and digital health. By enhancing health information systems in Paraguay, collaborating with Palau

National Hospital on smart healthcare, and introducing smart healthcare facilities in Eswatini, Taiwan has demonstrated a commitment to helping partner countries improve their health systems. Including Taiwan in WHO would add valuable expertise and advance smart, resilient, and inclusive healthcare worldwide.

- Taiwan is committed to achieving universal health coverage and has consistently improved the quality of its healthcare system in line with WHO recommendations. Taiwan has ranked first in Numbeo's Health Care Index since 2019 and has been named the best healthcare system by CEOWORLD since 2023. Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, supported by an integrated database and robust digital infrastructure, played a key role in Taiwan's effective pandemic response by enabling real-time data use and efficient resource coordination. Taiwan's inclusion in WHO—especially its substantive involvement in mechanisms such as the Global Digital Health Certificate Network (GDHCN), Alliance for Food Safety, International Health Regulation (IHR), WHO Coronavirus Network (CoViNet), WHO Emergency Medical Team, and WHO Pandemic Agreement—would greatly benefit the global health system, particularly in the fight against communicable diseases.
- The Government of Saint Lucia urges WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, set aside political considerations, and include Taiwan in all technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.



**The Prime Minister
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
West Indies**

4th May, 2026.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization
Geneva
Switzerland

Dear Director-General,

On behalf of my government, and pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly (WHA), as well as UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, I hereby request the inclusion of the supplementary item entitled “Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer” in the provisional agenda for the 79th session of the WHA.

Health is a fundamental human right and a universal value. Global health security is interconnected. At a time when the world is facing growing threats from infectious diseases including avian influenza like H5N1 and the continuous evolution of COVID-19 variants, as well as the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases and aging populations, international public health cooperation is more important than ever. The world cannot afford to exclude any stakeholder from participation in the global health system.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to urge countries to strengthen their surveillance and response measures, Taiwan remains outside of relevant mechanisms. This persistent exclusion is based upon a wrongful interpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1, which in fact do not preclude Taiwan’s participation in WHO, and has seriously undermined the international community’s collective ability to detect, prevent, and respond to public health threats. Taiwan’s participation—through the sharing of its public health expertise, surveillance data, and response capabilities—would significantly enhance global preparedness and resilience, advancing humanity toward the vision of Health for All.

Prior to 2017, Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years. Taiwan’s professionalism and expertise were widely recognized and acclaimed by WHO and its members. Taiwan has shown the world that it is a valuable and indispensable partner in the collective effort to ensure that all people enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

.../2 Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

At a time when WHO's ability to continue its disease prevention and response efforts across the world is under unprecedented strain, Taiwan stands ready to contribute in areas where it has already shown consistent generosity to the international community, such as vaccine assistance, laboratory capacity-building, and technical partnerships. By leveraging its robust health infrastructure and cutting-edge digital healthcare systems, Taiwan is prepared to assist with the closing of critical gaps in the provision of healthcare worldwide.

With the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement at the 78th WHA, it is more urgent than ever for WHO to bring in all stakeholders. Given its success in addressing COVID-19 and other emerging health threats, Taiwan should be invited to participate in the WHA as an observer and permitted to attend all WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan's involvement would significantly strengthen global health governance while securing the fundamental right to health of its 23.5 million people.

My government hopes that the WHA will accept the inclusion of this item. To this end, a draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum are appended for further discussion. Moreover, in order that the General Committee may properly fulfill its mandate and report to the WHA for a final decision, my government formally requests that the present letter and its enclosure be circulated as an official document of the WHA. In this respect, my government recalls Rule 19 of the WHA Rules of Procedure, which stipulates the duty of the Secretariat regarding the circulation of documents.

Please accept, Director-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. The Honourable Godwin Friday
Prime Minister
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

GF/nds-d

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

4th May, 2026.

Proposal submitted by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3 - ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030 - and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
- Taiwan's participation in the WHA is a health issue, not a political one. Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years from 2009 to 2016. Its participation was widely recognized and acclaimed.
- Taiwan has demonstrated that it is an indispensable member of the international community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan continues to share resources and knowledge with and offer technical assistance to WHO member states.
 - In 2013 and 2017, respectively, Taiwan made notification of and shared information on H6N1 and H7N9 avian influenza cases, as well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.
 - In December 2019, Taiwan's disease surveillance system picked up a notice issued regarding pneumonia of unknown cause in China and reported it to WHO. This important alert was one of the first that WHO received concerning COVID-19, as noted in the main report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. The experience of COVID-19 demonstrated that the present global health governance framework could be more effective by including all parties in responding to threats to global health. Therefore, it is critical that countries across the globe unite to bolster health governance.
 - Taiwan manufacturer Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. was the first private manufacturer to license its COVID-19 vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool. This demonstrates that Taiwan has world-class biotechnology and medical treatments that can contribute to global health security.

- Taiwan has been contributing to global efforts to realize the right to health. These efforts include improving medical care in small South Pacific island nations; enhancing nutrition for women and children affected by an earthquake in Haiti; training aid workers to provide psychological support to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Romania; bolstering climate change adaptability in the Caribbean; and improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene at healthcare facilities in Kenya. Furthermore, Taiwan has provided humanitarian assistance through post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti, and Nepal.
- Taiwan is a global leader in medical technology and digital health. By enhancing health information systems in Paraguay, collaborating with Palau National Hospital on smart healthcare, and introducing smart healthcare facilities in Eswatini, Taiwan has demonstrated a commitment to helping partner countries improve their health systems. Including Taiwan in WHO would add valuable expertise and advance smart, resilient, and inclusive healthcare worldwide.
- Taiwan is committed to achieving universal health coverage and has consistently improved the quality of its healthcare system in line with WHO recommendations. Taiwan has ranked first in Numbeo's Health Care Index since 2019 and has been named the best healthcare system by CEOWORLD since 2023. Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, supported by an integrated database and robust digital infrastructure, played a key role in Taiwan's effective pandemic response by enabling real-time data use and efficient resource coordination. Taiwan's inclusion in WHO - especially its substantive involvement in mechanisms such as the Global Digital Health Certificate Network (GDHCN), Alliance for Food Safety, International Health Regulation (IHR), WHO Coronavirus Network (CoViNet), WHO Emergency Medical Team, and WHO Pandemic Agreement - would greatly benefit the global health system, particularly in the fight against communicable diseases.
- My government urges WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, set aside political considerations, and include Taiwan in all technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Seventy-Ninth World Health Assembly,

Reaffirming that the fundamental objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, and that Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;

Acknowledging that Taiwan contributed greatly to combating the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to the health emergency in Ukraine, that Taiwan provides timely medical and humanitarian aid to countries in need, and that Taiwan's public health experience and expertise are valuable to efforts to make global health architecture more resilient and improve prevention, preparedness, and response for future pandemics;

Expressing grave concern that Taiwan, an indispensable member of the international community and a provider of international humanitarian assistance to numerous WHO member states, is not fully included in all WHO technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, including the Pandemic Agreement;

Recalling that from 2009 to 2016, Taiwan, a force for good in the world, was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer, making constructive contributions to global health security;

Recognising that only when Taiwan is directly and properly included in the international community's collective efforts to combat disease can WHO's ultimate goal of Health for All be achieved; and

Realising that in the fight against emerging diseases, WHO must remain informed of all health concerns worldwide and be able to obtain and disseminate relevant data needed to prevent, monitor, and respond to epidemics and other diseases;

Hereby invites Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer.



TUV:01/26/WHO

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade of the Government of Tuvalu presents its compliments to the World Health Organization in Geneva, and has the honour to convey herewith a letter from the Honourable Tuafafa Latasi, Minister of Health and Social Welfare of the Government of Tuvalu, addressed to His Excellency Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, for his kind attention and consideration.

The Ministry expresses gratitude for the assistance of the World Health Organization in ensuring that the attached letter is properly conveyed to the Office of the Director-General and given the appropriate consideration it deserves.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade of the Government of Tuvalu avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the World Health Organization in Geneva, the assurances of its highest consideration.

FUNAFUTI, 11 May 2026

World Health Organization
GENEVA

SWITZERLAND





10th May 2026

To: H.E Dr Tedros Adhamon Ghebreyesus
Director General
World Health Organisation
Avenue Appia 20, 1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of Tuvalu, and pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly (WHA), as well as UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, I hereby **request the inclusion of the supplementary item entitled “Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer” in the provisional agenda for the 79th session of the WHA.**

Health is a fundamental human right and a universal value. Global health security is interconnected. At a time when the world is facing growing threats from infectious diseases including avian influenza like H5N1 and the continuous evolution of COVID-19 variants, as well as the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases and aging populations, international public health cooperation is more important than ever. The world cannot afford to exclude any stakeholder from participation in the global health system.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to urge countries to strengthen their surveillance and response measures, Taiwan remains outside of relevant mechanisms. This persistent exclusion is based upon a wrongful interpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1, which in fact do not preclude Taiwan's participation in WHO, and has seriously undermined the international community's collective ability to detect, prevent, and respond to public health threats. Taiwan's participation through the sharing of its public health expertise, surveillance data, and response capabilities would significantly enhance global preparedness and resilience, advancing humanity toward the vision of Health for All.

Prior to 2017, Taiwan was invited to participate in the WHA as an observer for eight consecutive years. Taiwan's professionalism and expertise were widely recognized and acclaimed by WHO and its members. Taiwan has shown the world that it is a valuable and indispensable partner in the collective effort to ensure that all people enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

At a time when WHO's ability to continue its disease prevention and response efforts across the world is under unprecedented strain, Taiwan stands ready to contribute in areas where it has already shown consistent generosity to the international community, such as vaccine assistance, laboratory capacity-building, and technical partnerships. By leveraging its robust health infrastructure and cutting-edge digital healthcare systems, Taiwan is prepared to assist with the closing of critical gaps in the provision of healthcare worldwide.

With the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement at the 78th WHA, it is more urgent than ever for WHO to bring in all stakeholders. Given its success in addressing COVID-19 and other emerging health threats, Taiwan should be invited to participate in the WHA as an observer and permitted to attend all WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan's involvement would

significantly strengthen global health governance while securing the fundamental right to health of its 23.5 million people.

The Government of Tuvalu hopes that the WHA will accept the inclusion of this item. To this end, a draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum are appended for further discussion. Moreover, in order that the General Committee may properly fulfill its mandate and report to the WHA for a final decision, the Government of Tuvalu formally requests that the present letter and its enclosure be circulated as an official document of the WHA. In this respect, the Government of Tuvalu recalls Rule 19 of the WHA Rules of Procedure, which stipulates the duty of the Secretariat regarding the circulation of documents.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Tuafafa Latasi

Minister of Health and Social Welfare

Government of Tuvalu

Funafuti

TUVALU

Enclosure 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly,

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Recognizing that only when Taiwan is directly and properly included in the international community's collective efforts to combat disease can WHO's ultimate goal of Health for All be achieved; and

Realizing that in the fight against emerging diseases, WHO must remain informed of all health concerns worldwide and be able to obtain and disseminate relevant data needed to prevent, monitor, and respond to epidemics and other diseases;

Hereby invites Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer.

Explanatory memorandum

10th May 2026

Proposal submitted by Tuvalu

Inviting Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer

Tuvalu considers that a discussion at the 79th World Health Assembly on Taiwan's participation is necessary and timely for the following reasons:

Relevance

- The proposal is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030—and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).
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well as virus gene sequences once they were confirmed, which helped other countries make appropriate preparations.

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and reconstruction efforts in the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, Türkiye, Indonesia, Haiti, and Nepal.

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- The Government of Tuvalu seeks for WHO to maintain a professional and neutral stance, set aside political considerations,

and include Taiwan in all technical meetings, mechanisms, and activities, and to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer.