



**World Health
Organization**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
122nd Session
Provisional agenda item 4.5**

**EB122/INF.DOC./2
21 January 2008**

Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

At the request of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland, the Director-General has the honour to transmit the attached letter to the Executive Board.

ANNEX

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DE CHINE
A GENÈVE

11, CHEMIN DE SURVILLE - 1213 PETIT-LANCY 2, GENÈVE
TÉL. 022 879 56 78

16 January 2008

Excellency,

With reference to the draft resolution submitted by El Salvador and a very few other countries to the 122nd Session of the Executive Board (EB) of the World Health Organization (WHO) under the item 4.5 “Review of the implementation of *the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR)*” of its provisional agenda, I have the honor to solemnly state China’s position as follows:

The draft resolution is a politically motivated one engineered by the Taiwan authorities. Under the disguise of universal application of the IHR, it aims to bring up the issue of Taiwan to 122nd Session of EB. The World Health Assembly (WHA) has rejected the Taiwan-related proposal for eleven consecutive years. With such a draft resolution to the EB, the very few sponsors are trying to provoke a political debate in the EB and challenge once again the One China principle, which constitutes a flagrant violation of relevant UN and WHA resolutions.

The IHR being implemented by sovereign states is the prerequisite, basis and important guarantee for its universal application. The government of China has stated in May 2007 that, the IHR applies to the entire territory of the People’s Republic of China, including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Taiwan Province.

In order to address the specific questions relating to the IHR application in Taiwan region, China initiated consultations with the WHO Secretariat and reached an agreement last April on the issue of the IHR application in Taiwan region under One China principle. Under the same principle, the Chinese government has made appropriate arrangements on specific issues relating to the IHR application in Taiwan region. For routine IHR application, China’s National Focal Point will handle it through existing cross-straits health communication channels. In case of public health emergencies in Taiwan region, the Chinese side will collaborate with the WHO Secretariat to take appropriate actions under the framework of *the*

Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2005 between the Ministry of Health of China and the WHO Secretariat. So far, the work for implementation in general is going smoothly and well, and there is no gap whatsoever as indicated in the draft resolution.

The 122nd Session of EB has many important items on its agenda. We are highly concerned that the draft resolution may provoke yet another long political debate, wasting the precious time and resources of the EB members. We strongly urge those very few countries to reverse course, and strictly abide by basic norms of international relations and the Charter of the United Nations.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as a document of the 122nd Session of the EB under the item 4.5 of its provisional agenda.



LI Baodong

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office
at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland

H.E. Dr. Margaret CHAN
Director General
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