

## **Strengthening WHO's global health emergency preparedness and response**

The Executive Board, having considered the report on strengthening WHO's global emergency preparedness and response,<sup>1</sup> the interim progress report of the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response,<sup>2</sup> the reports of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme<sup>3</sup> and the interim report of the Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response,<sup>4</sup> referred to in document EB148/INF./4;

Recalling resolutions WHA73.1 (2020) on COVID-19 response and WHA73.8 (2020) on strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005);

Acknowledging the ongoing work to review experience gained and lessons learned from the WHO-coordinated international health response to COVID-19 in order to improve capacity for global health emergency prevention, detection, preparedness and response, including through strengthening, as appropriate, the WHO Health Emergencies Programme;

Taking into account the recommendations in the reports of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (document A73/10 and the Committee's interim report on the WHO response to COVID-19), in particular recommendations related to the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, and recognizing the importance of ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to implement the recommendations of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme;

Recognizing the need to improve global, regional and country preparedness and response capabilities and capacities for health emergencies, and taking note of the proposals made by Member States, groups of Member States and other stakeholders in this regard, as well as of WHO's work in emergencies;

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB148/18.

<sup>2</sup> Document EB148/19.

<sup>3</sup> Document A73/10 and the Interim report on WHO's response to COVID-19, January–April 2020 (available at <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/ioac-interim-report-on-who-s-response-to-covid-19>, accessed 16 January 2021).

<sup>4</sup> Available at [https://live-the-independent-panel.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Independent-Panel\\_Second-Report-on-Progress\\_Final-15-Jan-2021.pdf](https://live-the-independent-panel.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Independent-Panel_Second-Report-on-Progress_Final-15-Jan-2021.pdf), accessed 16 January 2021).

Noting the need to assess and strengthen WHO's capacity for health emergency preparedness and response within the overall mandate and resources of WHO, while enhancing collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and other partners;

Emphasizing that WHO-strengthening efforts must be led by Member States, and reaffirming the fundamental decision-making role of the Executive Board and Health Assembly;

Mindful of the ongoing impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation work of the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response, the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme and the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, and without prejudice to their current and future recommendations,

Decided to call for the development of a resolution, with full participation of WHO Member States<sup>1</sup> for consideration by the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly, on strengthening WHO's health emergency preparedness and response capacities, including to address the recommendations of the Independent Panel and the two committees mentioned above.

Fifth meeting, 20 January 2021  
EB148/SR/5

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<sup>1</sup> And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.