

### ***Statement of Slovak Republic on item 5 (SHEPPR)***

Slovakia deeply appreciate the Secretariat's effort and very hard work on the emergencies and we recall all insured, traumatized employees and all those colleagues who passed away during or in connection to their duty in the field. While we have to discuss under this item work of the SHEPPR committee, we want to thank to Chair Dr. Hisham and all the members of the SHEPPR committee for their report. However, we would like to see in the upcoming months of this year but the latest at the regular EB meeting in January 2025, an evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the work reflecting the theory of change, the dollar- and time-value approach, focusing on a result-based approach with an impact on countries and Organization strengthening. As there are currently nearly 50 grade 2 and 3 emergencies ongoing in various parts of the world, we would greatly appreciate more clear guidance on for example mpox, smallpox, and polio which are unsolved technical issues. Slovakia would welcome improvement in the communication to countries either through a more efficient mechanism of SHEPPR or directly from the Secretariat to Member States, shared ad hoc during significant changes, new emergencies, or through regular updates as agreed upon a year ago at the EB meeting. This will help us all not only to be better informed but perhaps also to coordinate assistance more quickly and allocate resources to support the Organization's fantastic work at all three levels in field of emergencies and global security.

In addition, we endorse the following recommendations for enhancing governance effectiveness and mitigating potential risks within the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response:

*Refinement of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):* SOPs should be continuously refined to include detailed information on substantive items in the provisional agenda and guiding questions for discussions. Clear objectives for extraordinary meetings should be better defined to ensure a common understanding of public health emergency declarations and temporary recommendations.

*Improved Coordination and Communication:* The timeframe for conducting extraordinary meetings following the determination of a public health emergency of international concern should be revised for enhanced Member State engagement. This includes timely dissemination of relevant information and maintaining an updated list of contact points for better coordination.

*Inclusive and Multilingual Communication:* It is imperative to ensure that all Member States have access to emergency information provided during extraordinary meetings. Where feasible, information should be translated into all six United Nations languages to ensure inclusivity and clear understanding among diverse Member States.

*Strengthened Oversight and Accountability:* Recognizing the complex ecosystem of pandemic preparedness and response, the Committee should adopt mechanisms to enhance accountability and reduce fragmentation. Leveraging existing entities and intergovernmental fora should support clearer role definitions and enhance the oversight function effectively.

*Sustainable Financing Model:* Addressing the Programme's fragile financing model is crucial. The Committee should prioritize establishing a secure and sustainable financing framework to support the continued implementation of key recommendations and provide adequate resources for preparedness, resilience, and response activities.

*Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement:* The Committee should enforce high-level engagement with national political and technical stakeholders, ensuring inclusivity of diverse groups such as public health agencies, faith-based groups, youth, civil society, and other partners. This broad engagement is key to the effective implementation of health emergency responses.

We have identified potential Risks related to SHEPPR:

*Inadequate Timeliness and Coordination:* Delays in the notification period for extraordinary meetings or inadequate access to information could hinder timely and effective responses to health emergencies.

*Fragmented Communication:* Lack of multilingual communication and inclusive access to information may lead to misalignment and misunderstandings among Member States, negatively impacting coordinated efforts.

*Unsustainable Financing:* The Programme's current financing model poses a significant risk. Without securing long-term, sustainable funding, the Programme may struggle to maintain and expand its response capabilities.

*Insufficient Stakeholder Integration:* Failure to fully integrate diverse stakeholder perspectives and expertise may limit the effectiveness of health emergency preparedness and response initiatives, ultimately reducing resilience and capacity building.

By addressing these areas for improvement and potential risks, the Standing Committee can significantly enhance its governance framework and effectiveness in responding to global health emergencies.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.