



Statement by Finland
WHO EB156
Item 15 Health Emergencies

Thank you Chair,

Finland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

WHO's work in health emergencies and preparedness is a core function of the organization that must be safeguarded in the current financing situation. We need a strong global health framework and robust international cooperation. We welcome the adoption of the amendments to the IHR and look forward to a meaningful conclusion of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body process.

Outbreaks are best prevented where they emerge, before they emerge. Finland has firsthand experience in cross-sectoral efforts to contain an outbreak with pandemic potential. The handling of the Avian Influenza outbreaks in Finnish fur farms in 2023 required delicate cross-sectoral teamwork for timely acquisition and sharing of information, production of accurate data to support decision making and implementation of the necessary mitigation measures. Balancing trade interests, information sharing, and being the first in the world to deploy a novel vaccine to at-risk groups was made possible through a joint effort of different sectors sharing a mutual goal.

To address high-health-risk situations, we must focus our efforts on prevention, starting from the community level, and consider it as an investment in health and wellbeing.

Thank you.
