



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

**156th Session of the Executive Board, World Health Organization
3 – 11 February 2025**

Agenda 7: WHO's work in health emergencies

Thank you, Chair.

Maldives appreciates the Secretariat's comprehensive report on WHO's work in health emergencies. As a Small Island State, we are acutely aware of the growing threat of health emergencies, particularly those worsened by climate change, extreme weather events, and resource limitations—intensifying the impact of health crises on our population and health systems.

To strengthen WHO's work in Health Emergencies, we urge WHO to work closely with Member States and partners in two key areas:

First Securing Sustainable and Predictable Financing for Health Emergencies. Maldives emphasizes the need for a reliable financing mechanism to ensure timely and effective responses to health emergencies. We encourage the Secretariat to:

- Explore innovative financing solutions, including a dedicated financing facility for health emergencies.
- Strengthen collaboration with international financial institutions and donors to expand resource mobilization.
- Ensure that funds are allocated efficiently and equitably, particularly to vulnerable populations affected by conflict, natural disasters, and climate change
- Health emergencies require a unified global response. Maldives calls on the Secretariat to:
- Play a stronger role in facilitating information-sharing, joint planning, and coordinated response efforts among Member States and partners.
- Support the development of regional and national emergency response plans aligned with the International Health Regulations (IHR).
- Promote cross-sectoral collaboration, including the integration of climate resilience and disaster risk reduction strategies into health emergency preparedness and response.



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Maldives welcomes the establishment of the Pandemic Fund and urges the Secretariat to work closely with it to ensure equitable access to financial resources, particularly for vulnerable countries.

In conclusion, we urge the Secretariat to prioritize sustainable financing, enhanced cooperation, and resilient health systems in its emergency response efforts. We stand ready to work with WHO and all Member States to strengthen global health emergencies.

Thank you.