

EB158

February 2-7, 2026

Lebanon Statement on Item 16: WHO's work in health emergencies

Mr Chair, distinguished delegates,

Lebanon thanks the DG for his report and would like to recall with deep appreciation the prompt support provided by WHO during the devastating war of 2024, when thousands of lives were lost, tens of thousands injured, one third of our population displaced, health facilities destroyed and many health services disrupted. Those months placed an extraordinary strain on our already fragile health system.

Today, in 2026, Lebanon has moved from war into recovery and the hand of WHO is always extended for help to move ahead in our national and joint priorities. We are reviewing the third year of our national health sector strategy, Vision 2030, which was launched amidst cascading crises and remains anchored in evidence, system strengthening, and alignment with the SDGs. The Public Health Emergency Operations Center—established with WHO support—proved its value during the crisis and continues to serve as a cornerstone for preparedness and response.

Recovery, however, is far from complete. The protracted Syrian refugee crisis, the fragile infrastructure, and socio-economic instability continue to challenge our health system. Lebanon has learned that preparedness, response, and recovery must advance simultaneously, and that resilience must be built into every level of care. We therefore call for the integration of data platforms that capture emergencies and crises alongside routine indicators, ensuring that progress is measured accurately and corrective action is timely. In that, we are working alongside WHO to build a national Health Hub as a repository of all health-related information with dynamic indicator generation into informative dashboards.

We extend our gratitude to WHO and partners for their solidarity, which has been a signal of hope and a driver of resilience. Yet the road ahead is long, and Lebanon calls for scaled-up financial and technical assistance, sustained investment in resilient health systems, and continued focus on preparedness, response, and recovery.

Thank you