

EB158

February 2-7, 2026

Lebanon Statement on Item 2: Report of the Director General

Mr. Chair, honorable members of the EB, distinguished delegates,

Lebanon commends the Director General for his report that details the outstanding achievements of WHO over the past year, despite increasing needs, challenges and threats.

The year 2025 has been a critical one for the WHO, but we see difficult circumstances as an opportunity to innovate and to grow. Amid financial constraints, growing demands, and heightened expectations, Lebanon expresses its solidarity with the Organization and with its staff at all levels, whose professionalism and commitment remain essential to safeguarding global health, often under very difficult circumstances.

We are at a pivotal moment for the multilateral system, as discussions continue on the future of global cooperation, including in the context of the UN80 process. Lebanon looks forward to engaging constructively in these discussions, with the shared objective of strengthening coherence and effectiveness, while preserving WHO's central role in global health governance. What is important above all is to be able to sustain the improvements that we all invested in, over time. We, therefore, stress on the importance of the sustainable financing of WHO, including continued progress on assessed contributions and improvements in financing quality, to preserve the organization's capacity to deliver against Member State priorities while preserving its credibility and independence.

Despite a challenging global environment, WHO has demonstrated that it is the Ministry of Health of the World and it remains a trusted and indispensable platform. The successful conclusion of the Pandemic Agreement negotiations in 2025, as well as the ongoing discussions on the PABS annex, underscore the Organization's continued relevance and convening power.

Lebanon reaffirms its firm commitment to the principles of the WHO, particularly the right of every individual to the highest attainable standard of health.

Despite prolonged economic and humanitarian challenges, Lebanon remains committed to strengthening its health system and protecting vulnerable populations. We express our deep appreciation for WHO's continued support, which has been instrumental in sustaining essential health services and responding to crises, and we remain committed to supporting the Organization in adapting to new realities and fulfilling its mandate.

Thank you.