

Republic of Singapore

Agenda No. 11

Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Written Statement

Singapore commends the Director-General's comprehensive report on health-related Sustainable Development Goals progress. The report emphasises that robust health information and data systems are fundamental to accelerating progress. Singapore agrees that addressing persistent gaps in timely, disaggregated data requires both technical innovation and strong governance frameworks. We wish to share our experience developing health data infrastructure as a practical example for international learning.

2 Singapore started sharing health information across providers since 2011, with the implementation of the National Electronic Health Record system (NEHR), which consolidates patients' key health information as they move across healthcare settings and providers. This includes health information that is crucial for continuity of care such as allergies, vaccinations, diagnoses, medications, laboratory results, radiological images, and discharge summaries. The purpose is to ensure that patients benefit from better care and lower costs, for example, by reducing the risk of inappropriate medication being prescribed or allowing healthcare professionals to avoid repeating tests and procedures. Over time, we have progressively expanded participation, with all public hospitals and public primary care clinics now contributing data, alongside most private hospitals and private primary care clinics.

3 However, voluntary participation created coverage gaps, particularly among specialist clinics, dental clinics, and laboratories. This experience aligns with the report's observation that fragmented data sources hinder coordination of care.

4 In January 2026, Singapore's Parliament passed the Health Information Bill. When it takes effect from early 2027, this legislation will address coverage gaps by requiring all licensed healthcare providers to contribute key health information to the NEHR and also provide for their access to NEHR.

5 The Bill supports our vision of "One Patient, One Health Summary, One Care Journey", by allowing patients' key health information to be accessible by their healthcare providers when they move across healthcare settings, thereby reducing issues such as medication errors and duplicate testing, enabling more coordinated care by providers.

6 The adoption and implementation of this vision is only possible with trust. The bill introduces robust legislative safeguards to build trustworthiness. Data protection measures such as restricting the NEHR to be primarily accessed by healthcare professionals who are directly involved in providing direct patient care and prohibiting access to NEHR for employment or insurance purposes were put in place. Authorised individuals will only be granted access to the data types required for their patient care duties, for example, nurses in general will not be able to access radiological images as they do not require this information for their patient care duties. Patients may monitor access through digital platforms and restrict access to their NEHR information if desired, and there are provisions for doctors to still access NEHR information during medical emergencies. While some of these safeguards were already in place, passing the legislation enshrines the safeguards in law to provide greater assurance of protection and build trust.

7 Beyond supporting direct patient care, our framework also enables health information to be used for population health purposes. NEHR information may be accessed for public health and public interest purposes, such as to support infectious disease outbreak investigations and response, drug recalls, and the planning of public health programmes.

8 Singapore's experience demonstrates that effective health information sharing systems require both technical infrastructure and robust and enabling legislative frameworks. Mandatory participation can address coverage gaps, while public trust is built and maintained through robust safeguards.

9 We recognise that each country faces unique contexts and challenges. Singapore stands ready to share our experiences including lessons learned from implementing the Bill but also learn from fellow Member States' approaches to strengthening health data sharing systems.