

Republic of Singapore

Agenda No. 9

Universal Health Coverage

Written Statement

Singapore thanks the Secretariat for the reports under agenda item 9 on universal health coverage, covering integrated emergency, critical and operative care, transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs, and rare diseases.

2. Singapore supports the proposed global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care as a core enabler of universal health coverage. In Singapore, this is underpinned by system-level planning across hospitals encompassing capacity management, resource allocation, and coordinated deployment of operative capacity (including surgical theatres, intensive care units, emergency care services, and specialised medical equipment). Common clinical standards also ensure appropriate care outcomes. Such integration strengthens routine service delivery and surge readiness.

3. Singapore recognises the importance of sustained attention to rare diseases as a matter of equity and financial protection. Many rare diseases do not have available treatments. In rare diseases with treatments available, these therapies can be very costly. Singapore's approach integrates rare disease management within the broader health system, supported by mainstream financing mechanisms such as government subsidies, mandatory health savings account (MediSave) and national health insurance (MediShield Life) coverage for selected high-cost drugs and advanced therapies. There are also discretionary financial assistance schemes such as MediFund or the Rare Disease Fund, to support patients with rare diseases that require more support beyond that provided by our mainstream financing mechanisms.

4. On transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs, Singapore supports efforts to increase availability while ensuring ethical access and robust oversight. We agree that transplantation systems must be grounded in clear legislation, transparent governance, and safeguards against trafficking and commercialization, while remaining integrated within universal health coverage frameworks.

5. Singapore's organ donation and transplantation system is governed by two legislations. Deceased organ donation is governed under the Human Organ Transplant Act (HOTA), which provides an opt-out framework for selected organs, and is complemented by an opt-in framework under the Medical (Therapy, Education and Research) Act that enables donation of any organs, tissues and/or whole body upon death. Organ allocation is centrally coordinated, with decisions guided by established

criteria on clinical compatibility and medical urgency, rather than ability to pay or social status.

6. Living donor organ donation is allowed under the HOTA, and is regulated through various safeguards, including mandatory ethics committee review, informed consent requirements, and explicit prohibitions against financial inducement or organ trading, to protect donors' welfare and sustain public confidence.

7. We issue information packages and support campaigns to raise public awareness on organ donation, to enable informed decision making on organ donation. Collectively, the efforts establish organ donation as a societal norm while preserving individual choice.

8. Singapore would welcome a global strategy anchored on ethical principles, legislative foundations and robust oversight arrangements that promote equity, increase accessibility and trust of organ donation while allowing adaptation to national contexts.

9. Singapore takes note of the proposed decision to defer consideration of the draft strategy to allow further development and encourages continued Member State engagement through structured consultations to advance a strategy that is evidence-informed, Member State guided, and implementation-ready.