

UK Reply to DG Report – EB158

The UK reaffirms its strong support for the World Health Organization and its essential role in protecting global health. At a time when the world faces profound instability and pressures on health systems, WHO's scientific leadership and its coordination of emergency response remain indispensable to safeguarding lives.

We express our deepest thanks to WHO for its health emergency response globally including in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine, where Russia's illegal attacks continue. The UK also continues to condemn any and all attacks on civilian infrastructure including hospitals.

These crises are stark reminders of how fragile health systems can be and how essential WHO's technical authority and coordination are in enabling emergency response as well as global health security. WHO surveillance capabilities are a vital tool to ensure we can detect global health threats as they emerge. We also remain committed to delivering an effective, implementable, and equitable Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) Annex to the Pandemic Agreement by May.

We welcome WHO's work to prioritise and right-size the Organization and support reforms that drive stronger accountability and HR performance and improve the coherence of WHO's work across all levels and within the wider global health system. We encourage further clarity on its unique value within an evolving global health landscape; particularly in addressing the most pressing health threats and supporting countries to strengthen resilience.

The UK is committed to constructive, evidence-based cooperation across the global health system. We want international action that reduces duplication, creating a Multilateral Health System that is efficient and underpins global health security. Working with international partners we will continue to support approaches that are inclusive, improve coherence and deliver measurable impact.

WHO's efforts to strengthen health systems also align with the **UK Health Mission and 10-Year Health Plan for England**, which set out a long-term shift towards prevention, community-based care and the use of data and technology to improve the health of our population. We are committed to tackling antimicrobial resistance, addressing the rising burden of noncommunicable diseases, and are in the process of passing the Tobacco and Vapes Bill which will create the first smokefree generation in the UK. Many of these efforts mirror WHO's strategic objectives and we look forward to deepening our collaboration with WHO, sharing evidence and lessons that can benefit countries everywhere, including through the 62 WHO Collaborating Centres we host in the UK.

The United Kingdom remains firmly committed to working with WHO and Member States to strengthen the resilience of health systems and protect health across the globe. Together, we can meet today's challenges and better prepare for those ahead.