

73RD SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY – RESUMED

Australia's written statement on Agenda item 21

Australia thanks the Internal and External Auditors for their reports, and the Secretariat for the report on ongoing work to ensure implementation of audit recommendations.

We commend the work that has been done, including the introduction of important management tools and systems consistent with audit recommendations to improve accountability, transparency and operating efficiency and effectiveness, and we encourage continued efforts to implement recommendations in a timely manner.

We are pleased the World Health Organization (WHO) will revise its fraud prevention policy and preventive mechanisms to strengthen effective management of the risks of fraud and corruption across the three levels of the organization. We thank the Secretariat for its update on addressing internal control issues and urge continued focus on efforts to enhance internal controls, particularly in country offices based in challenging operating environments.

Australia encourages the Secretariat to prioritise actions to strengthen the WHO's investigation office and address significant bottlenecks. We fully endorse the recommendations of the PBAC for the Assembly's consideration under this item.