

73rd SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY – RESUMED
Australia's written statement on Agenda item 22

Australia values the World Health Organization's (WHO) continued commitment to implementing the United Nations (UN) Development System reforms, with the aim to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Australia is committed to ensuring UN organisations, including the WHO, are fit for purpose, effective, open and transparent and accountable to the Member States that form them.

The UN's coordinated and rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic, led by the WHO, including in the Indo-Pacific region, has been critical.

Australia notes the pandemic has provided an opportunity to implement and test key elements of the UN reforms, including for the WHO to engage with the Resident Coordinator system, and work across the UN system in more agile, collaborative and innovative ways.

Australia requests further information on how the WHO, at all levels of the organisation, is engaging with UN country teams and Resident Coordinators.

We strongly advocate for closer collaboration between the WHO, Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health. The current pandemic has highlighted the importance of ensuring the Tripartite functions as an effective collaboration.

We also encourage the WHO to continue to address gaps in the implementation of UN reforms.

It is crucial that organisations across the UN system, including the WHO, are proactive in their efforts to drive collective action to improve standards, enhance accountability, strengthen capacity, and incentivise cultural change.

Australia reiterates our zero tolerance for any form of harassment, discrimination or abuse, and the importance of timely and robust reporting and action in response to any allegations.

The WHO must ensure its structures and processes can effectively and appropriately handle misconduct allegations and that its organisational culture upholds the prevention of harassment, including sexual harassment, and all other forms of misconduct.