



**STATEMENT BY THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI ON ITEM 13.2, WHO's
WORK IN HEALTH EMERGENCIES
AT THE 73rd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, GENEVA
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1. Mr. Chairman the Kingdom of Eswatini takes note with great appreciation the work that the World Health Organization is doing in health emergencies as outlined in document A73/11. WHO and all its technical partners have increased operational capacity and assisted many countries at the receiving end of catastrophic health emergencies. We note the constraints under which these responses are being carried out. These include insufficient funding, lack of human capacity, insecurity, potential and real threats to health workers and mass population movements all of which negatively impact the WHO's work.
2. WHO continues to do commendable work in providing technical guidance to The Kingdom of Eswatini in emergency preparedness and response planning and execution during this COVID 19 pandemic. WHO in-country was the first to move in the response with us and supported establishment of in-country testing which has been pivotal to our response. We thank WHO's role in development of guidelines, protocols and dissemination of information and research which has

been key in mounting the local response. We applaud the leadership of the WHO Director General especially clarifications on misconceptions of COVID-19 which has made information sharing easier, the strong leadership shown, and authenticity of information shared with countries.

3. We would also like to applaud the selflessness of healthcare workers who put themselves forward to provide the care required for the COVID-19 pandemic. Since this is the International year of Nurses and Midwives, we would like to recognize them; for all the work they have done to continue to deliver much needed health services.
4. Mr. Chairman, our response has faced constraints which has included limited access to commodities such as PPE, diagnostics, medical equipment. We want to thank all support that the Kingdom of Eswatini has received to tackle these constraints which has highlighted the importance of solidarity. Please allow me to mention a few countries which include the Republic of South Africa for their continued support, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and Republic of India who shared PPE, the Republic of Cuba for sharing their medical experts and the Republic of China (Taiwan) for sharing various commodities, equipment and medical expertise.
5. Mr. Chairman, the COVID-19 pandemic has traversed political and geographic boundaries. Despite this, the WHO, which provides a platform for international health coordination efforts, continues to exclude Taiwan. Excluding Taiwan from WHO creates a dangerous gap in the global health network—jeopardizing the wellbeing of

everyone, everywhere. Due to its exclusion from WHO, Taiwan has received only incomplete and delayed information since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, Taiwan learned from the 2003 SARS epidemic and took timely and effective measures against COVID-19. With Taiwan's robust health care system, rigorous testing, information transparency, and collaboration between the government and the private sector, Taiwan's response has been one of the most successful worldwide.

6. In conclusion, the Kingdom of Eswatini urges WHO to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA so that Taiwan can share its knowledge and experience. Health is a human right, and Taiwan can help WHO and the world combat COVID-19 and move closer to achieving the goal of health for everyone, everywhere.

Thank you.