

Japan's Statement for Items 13.1, 13.2 and 14

We would like to appreciate the WHO secretariat and health experts for updating and reporting on IOAC, health emergencies and IHR.

Never before has the world been experiencing such an unprecedented level of health crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic. Never before has the role of international coordination mechanism been so crucial.

Bearing those in mind, Japan would like to highlight three points.

First, regarding the IHR, we are very interested in clearly defined responsibilities and requirements for countries to improve their communication capacities and processes. For example, the IHR process of detection, internal assessment, notification, consultation and verification should be further elaborated.

Second, it is necessary to clearly define the implementation of IHR, such as promptly reporting to the WHO once the member states obtain information, especially of an unknown virus or suspicious cases. We are willing to coordinate with member states to improve capacity for prevention, preparedness, and response for the future health emergency.

Third, regarding the WHO reform, Japan would like to stress the importance of coordination among IPPR, IHR Review Committee and IOAC. We are also looking forward to working with other member states to achieve impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation on the COVID-19 responses.

Finally, considering the global spread of the COVID-19, it is difficult for one country to contain the infectious disease alone, and it is crucial to collectively mobilize, centered around WHO, all the information and knowledge available in the world to tackle COVID-19. In addition to this, it also has been pointed out that the consideration should be given to regions which successfully embraced COVID-19 in terms of public health response, such as Taiwan. I would like to state we should not leave any geographical vacuums in addressing global health issues such as infectious disease control, which will serve the purpose to prevent the spread of infection in each country and worldwide.

Thank you.