

We welcome the report by the DG which explains thoroughly the WHO response in emergencies including the latest COVID19 pandemic. We specifically commend the work of the IOAC and the health emergencies programme with the context-specific and multi-level coordination efforts that continue to be successful despite the various difficulties encountered.

This pandemic was a test to all health systems around the world in various aspects. It showed how powerful can health regulations be and it even challenged the tools that we use to evaluate our preparedness to such epidemics. It also tested social and global solidarity and trust in healthcare systems. What was striking was the wide variation in people's reactions to recommended precautionary measures highlighting thus the importance of the difficulty of behavioral change in policy considerations.

In Lebanon, we suffered from many of the constraints mentioned to have faced WHO. I mention the presence of the refugee populations, the ongoing political unrest, the simultaneous occurrence of the economic and financial crises and the emerging limitations in availability of health resources, and on top of all that the massive explosion of the port of Beirut on August 4 2020.

It was challenging to keep up with the infodemic that emerged with the COVID19. With the over-abundance of information in various accuracy levels, it was hard to select trustworthy sources for policy guidance. The establishment of the information network for epidemics by WHO helped provide tailored information and evidence for action. It was also challenging in countries with absent or fragmented HIS to keep up with the massive information generated and it was not easy to consolidate a dashboard without falling into mistakes.

We believe that this conjuncture necessitates a new assessment and maybe reinvention of health policies considering the power of some determinants that were not as visible before. It also revealed the relative importance of other sectors vis a vis the health sector, hence the role of health in all policies and multisectoral approach to health.

We voice our lessons learned by three priority areas:

- Dynamic Health Information Systems that keep up with fast changes are crucial for future health policy.

- Trust and solidarity are the most important ways out of epidemics and these can be strengthened by the continuous evaluation of emergency preparedness tools and ensuring sustainable financing.

- All international efforts must be implemented in a context specific and nationally tailored solutions.

Finally, while we endorse the recommended draft resolution EB146.R10 we would like to thank WHO at all levels and call for its continuous support especially in providing timely evidence and technical expertise.