

Senator the Hon., Mary Isaac
Ministry of Health and Wellness
Saint Lucia
WHA 73 rd. Meeting

WHO Work in Health Emergencies: Public Health Preparedness and Response

Saint Lucia reviewed the “WHO Work in Health Emergencies [EB146(17)]” and recognized the need for ongoing capacity building to ensure the country is in a state of readiness to mitigate and respond to a myriad of diseases and conditions that can impact the nation. Moreover, Saint Lucia has prepared its response system to be in line with the WHO Emergency Response Framework which ensure management of all higher-graded emergencies through the WHO Incident Management System. Saint Lucia appreciates the great work done by the WHO in fulfilling the critical functions of leadership, partnership, coordination, information and planning, health operations and technical expertise, support and logistics, and finance and administration especially during this COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Ministry acknowledges the effort made by the WHO to be in a state of readiness for the deployment of mobile teams and to reinforce health facilities, improve surveillance and early warning systems, conduct vaccination campaigns, distribution of medicines and supplies and the training of health care workers as exemplified in the report.

Using the technical, financial, and material support provided by the Pan American Health organization, Saint Lucia was able to be in a state of preparedness and readiness to rapidly detect, identify and manage COVID-19 cases.

Saint Lucia also recognizes the sterling contribution made by the Government of Taiwan in this global fight against COVID-19. Like many other nations, Saint Lucia has benefited from the kind donation of Taiwan, including over 50,000 face masks and other personal protective equipment, infra-red thermometers, thermo scanners, and ventilators among other items to support the fight against COVID-19. Taiwan has been able to keep its numbers of COVID-19 cases low (589 cases as of November 12, 2020) and can share its expertise with the world through the World Health Assembly. To this end Saint Lucia lobbies for Taiwan to be given the opportunity to be a member of WHA.

In concluding, Saint Lucia applauds the work of WHO and its executive board members in preparing for and responding to health emergencies according to the WHO Emergency Response Framework.

END