



GOVERNMENT OF TUVALU

MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE AND GENDER AFFAIRS

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (WHA)

NOVEMBER 09-14 2020

INTERVENTIONS

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TUVALU INTERVENTION NO 4.

14. International Health Regulations (2005)

Chair, Director General, Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates

1. Mr. President, on behalf of the Tuvalu delegation, I am honoured to deliver our country's statement on **International Health Regulations (2005)**
2. In accordance with Article 50 of the IHR, the Director-General has the mandate to convene a Review Committee to provide technical recommendations and advice for amending the IHR.
3. Country health emergency preparedness and the International Health Regulations (2005) that include monitoring and evaluation of national preparedness capacities, planning and capacity building for critical capacities at all levels; are an important element of evaluation during and after any pandemic.
4. Is Access to Health services for all human beings (as stipulated in the IHR) not our mutual objective?
5. Is deciding that one country (for example Taiwan) should not be a part of participating in a review that effects their people is not reflective of our earlier discussions to **move together to build a healthier world?**
6. The COVID-19 pandemic has traversed political and geographic boundaries. Despite this, the World Health Organization, which provides a platform for international health coordination efforts, continues to exclude Taiwan for political reasons.
7. Prioritizing politics over global health tarnishes WHO's reputation as a trusted international agency. Moreover, excluding Taiwan from WHO creates a dangerous gap in the global health network—jeopardizing the wellbeing of everyone, everywhere.
8. After confirming its first COVID-19 case on January 21 this year, Taiwan immediately notified WHO through International Health Regulations channels. However, to date, WHO has yet to include Taiwan's IHR National Focal Point, which is the Taiwan Center for Disease Control, on the Event Information Site of the IHR intranet

9. Excluding Taiwan from such discussions is contrary to our responsibilities and mandate of the universality of working together to improve global health and contravenes our responsibility as human beings to **respect the fundamental rights of all people and all nations**.
- 10.COVID-19 knows no borders. As WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has stated, “We’re all in this together, and we all have a role to play.” We must join forces in the global fight against the pandemic.
- 11.It is therefore essential that Taiwan actively participates in the international community and be given observer status at the World Health Assembly.

Thank you