

Itens 16.1 e 16.3 The Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme / WHO's work in health emergencies

Dear chair,

On item 16.1, the report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, Brazil takes note of the recommendations and thanks the IOAC for the important work in these challenging times.

As we recognize the quality and relevance of the conclusions and recommendations, we would like to comment on some specific topics.

On paragraph 33, on progress related to COVID-19 therapeutics, diagnostics and vaccines for equitable access and the ACT-Accelerator, the report seems to put excessive stress on the importance of regulatory aspects and do not highlight accordingly the difficulties that are presented by high prices, lack of room for negotiation and other obstacles many countries faced and continue to face in securing health countermeasures.

On paragraph 34, in the same sense, the report also looks imbalanced when it highlights especially the "in country bottlenecks" as reasons for difficulties for delivery. Countries have strived, in many occasions, to meet demands, many of them excessive or unjustified. The nature of these demands should also be considered by the IOAC.

On para 35, the report affirms that deadly variants emerged in "under-resourced countries", what seems to be a discriminatory statement, for the appearance of new variants can occur anywhere.

Given the limited time available for this intervention and as we recognize and support the independent nature of the Committee, we would like to further engage with the IOAC to better understand the rationale of some conclusions.