

**GENERAL STATEMENT**  
**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**  
**SEVENTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**  
**(22-28 May 2022)**

President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the World Health Assembly, and express my expectation that this session will reap good results under your able leadership.

My appreciation also goes to Director General of the WHO and his team of the Secretariat for the efforts they made for successful opening of the Assembly.

President,

It is the common desire and ideal of humankind to live a healthy life in a peaceful world.

But the pandemic which lasts for three years claimed the lives of over 6.2 million people, posing a grave threat to life safety of humankind.

Today's pandemic crisis emphasizes once again the need of global cooperation in averting the present epidemiological state and preventing the spread of the malicious virus.

President,

The DPRK government, which regards as its political creed and ideal that the government and the state can exist only when all the people are sound and well, gives an utmost importance to the safety and improved health of the people and continues to increase its investment in the sector of public health.

Setting it as this year's main direction of the public health work to build up a firm guarantee for improving further the quality of the medical services for the people, the DPRK government is devoting itself to further consolidating the material and technical foundation of the public health sector.

A new item of expenditure was included in the state budget in our country to cope with the pandemic and other global health crises. The government has conducted in a systematic way the switch over to an advanced and popular epidemic prevention system through increased allocation of funds by 133.3% for epidemic prevention work, as compared with last year. It also increased its investment into the public health sector by 100.7%.

Especially, the adoption of the law on childcare at the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Supreme People's Assembly legalized as a policy of the greatest importance of the state to provide all children with much more improved fostering conditions and to supply them with dairy products and other nutritional food at the state's expense.

Recently, a most serious emergency case of the state occurred in the DPRK, making a break on our emergency epidemic prevention front where has firmly defended for two years and three months due to inroads of the malicious virus into the country. The DPRK government, in order to cope with the epidemic prevention crisis state prevailing in the country, lost no time in shifting the state epidemic prevention system to the maximum emergency epidemic prevention system and has been conducting vigorously the unprecedented epidemic prevention warfare to defend firmly the safety of the state and people.

Comrade **Kim Jong Un**, President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said at the Political Bureau Meeting and the Politburo Consultative Meetings of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) that the life in the epidemic prevention work is to take the initiative. He also showed detailed ways and took practical measures to seize the right moment in the epidemic prevention warfare and to perfectly block and terminate the source of the malicious virus spread and is personally taking the lead in the epidemic prevention warfare.

The DPRK government will overcome the public health crisis faced in the country at an early date and defend reliably the health and life safety of our people by dint of the single-hearted unity of all army and people rallied firmly around the Worker's Party of Korea.

President,

The issues of strengthening the existing International Health

Regulations (IHR) and newly adopting a so-called “WHO Convention on Pandemic” should be directed towards preventing, preparing for in time and responding swiftly to the pandemics in all aspects. In this work, the principle of fairness and equity should be maintained.

And it is our position that any dishonest attempt to politicize the activities of the organization should not be tolerated and that a priority should be given thoroughly to the principle of respecting the sovereignty of the Member States.

The DPRK will always be faithful to its responsible duty to protect the life of the people and to promote their health and welfare. It will also make an active contribution to building a sound and fair global health system in the future.

Thank you