



77th World Health Assembly

Public Health Emergencies: Preparedness and Response The Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Program (Agenda Item 13.1) WHO's work on Health Emergencies (Agenda14.1)

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS A77/4, A77/7, A77/11, A77/12, EB154/2024/REC/1;
Resolution EB154.R7; Decisions EB154(9) and EB154(10)

Mr. Chair,

The Bahamas addresses Items 13.1 and 14.1.

On Item 13.1, the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee (IOAC) has played a crucial role in overseeing the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, ensuring effective crisis management. However, the rising demands on WHO operations highlight the need for a comprehensive approach to emergency response and a sustainable financing mechanism, such as the Pandemic Fund. While progress has been made, questions remain about its funding scope and role in supporting preparedness efforts.

It is vital to track progress and address funding and operational capacity to optimize the World Health Emergency Program and enhance global response strategies. The Pandemic Fund's project selection process risks increasing health inequities, especially in vulnerable, under-resourced nations. We advocate for integrating a vulnerability index into the Fund's criteria,



prioritizing high-risk regions like Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including The Bahamas. This ensures resources reach those most in need and that no country is left behind in the fight against pandemics.

Mr. Chair,

On Item 14.1, The Bahamas commends the WHO for its support in addressing Member States' health needs during recovery and restoration processes and reinforcing health delivery systems.

The Bahamas, encourages the Secretariat to explore ways to identify health, social, and economic vulnerabilities emerging after emergencies, introduce a preparedness and response framework highlighting key strategies for building capacity and resilience, and design simple, easy-to-implement tools that help Member States describe their situations effectively.

I thank you