

#### Japan's statement on agenda items 13.3 and 13.4

- Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)
- Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

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- Mr. President,
- Japan welcomes and congratulates all Member States on completing the package of amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005). It's been a long journey, but Japan is proud of this collective work by all States Parties of the IHR and supports the resolution.
- We are deeply grateful for the leadership of the Co-Chair of the Drafting Group, Dr. Ashley Bloomfield of New Zealand, who has guided us through the last mile to arrive at where we are today. His expertise in IHR and public health, his empathy to listen to multiple perspectives and his patience were fundamental to bring us together. We also thank the WGIHR Bureau Members and the Secretariat for their hard work and support throughout the intensive two years.
- It is an achievement that the package of these amendments includes provisions that support equity and strengthen implementation of the IHR, which are critical to adequately prevent, prepare for, and respond to, health emergencies including pandemic emergencies. Collective deepened understanding of the operational aspects of the IHR (2005) as well as how each State Party implement these Regulations in their own unique way was another invaluable gift associated with the outcome of these negotiations. The process also helped States Parties to raise awareness of the IHR outside the field of public health, which will facilitate a whole-of-government approach important in implementing these regulations.
- Japan also appreciates other States Parties for their active engagement with our proposals, which we believe will contribute to strengthening communication to and between States Parties and WHO regarding high-risk events including those of unknown cause, and to better manage outbreaks on conveyances such as cruise ships.
- Now with this package at hand, it is our job as States Parties to commit to and collaborate with each other to efficiently implement it. Japan will continue to engage closely with other States Parties in this process in order to better prevent, prepare for, and respond to future health emergencies.
- For the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, Japan would first like to thank the Bureau Members and the Secretariat to facilitate the intensive two-year INB negotiations.
- Although we could not reach consensus at this World Health Assembly, Japan is committed to continue to engage constructively in the future processes laid out in the decision, which we fully support.
- We believe it is critical to make the contents to be truly meaningful and operational for

strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and to ensure universality and participation of as many Member States as possible.

- Concluding the negotiations on the Proposal for the WHO Pandemic Agreement continues to be of grave importance to the world to better prevent, prepare for, and respond to, future pandemics as quickly as possible, with a view to achieving universal health coverage. Japan hopes to continue our close collaboration with other Member States and partners towards this common objective.
- Thank you, Mr. President.

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