



**REGIONAL STATEMENT DELIVERED BY KENYA ON
BEHALF OF THE WHO AFRO MEMBER STATES ON
AGENDA ITEM 13.3 WORKING GROUP ON AMENDMENTS
TO THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005)**

1. Thank you, Chair
2. Kenya is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the 47 Member States of the WHO African Region and the Arab Republic of Egypt.
3. During the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO Member States requested the WHO Director General to constitute a Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005). This Committee provided numerous recommendations on how the global framework for health emergency and response could be improved.
4. Thereafter, in 2022, Member States agreed to embark on a process to amend the current IHR building on lessons learned.
5. **Chairperson**, the African Member States thank the Director General and the Bureau of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) for presenting their report for the consideration of the Assembly.
6. We also commend the WGIHR for having considered the more than 300 proposed amendments to the IHR. It is with this in mind that

the African Member States proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations, with a view of addressing the equity related gaps identified by various review panels, for the consideration of IHR State Parties.

7. In particular, the African Member States proposed the inclusion of a new article 13A highlighting the importance of equitable access to health products, technologies and know-how in support of a coordinated public health response.

8. Another new article 44A seeks to address the findings of the IHR Review Committee on the need for financing of core capacities. This new Article proposes a financing mechanism that is accountable to WHO Member States to support IHR implementation at global, regional and national levels. Such a mechanism will also contribute to enhancing greater equity in preparedness efforts.

9. **In conclusion, Chairperson,** the African Member States take this opportunity to thank the IHR State Parties for the constructive spirit and engagement throughout the negotiations on the amendments.

10. We remain committed to concluding consideration of the outstanding issues and reiterate the importance of mainstreaming equity in both the IHR and the Pandemic Agreement in order to ensure that the world is better prepared to deal with health emergencies in a fairer and more equitable manner. We stand ready to constructively engage and present a consensus package to the Assembly for adoption.

11. Only then can we ensure that we leave no one behind and achieve the ultimate objective of the IHR to prevent the international spread of disease.

12. I thank you.