Honorable Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

I have the honor to present the State of Kuwait’s national statement on the Amendments to the International Health Regulations

The State of Kuwait thanks the Director General for his report under agenda item 13.3

The State of Kuwait is among the first countries to have signed the International Health Regulations 2005. Since the implementation of the agreement, Kuwait has demonstrated its clear commitment to these regulations and compliance with their requirements.

Kuwait has conducted the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of the national core capacities and established the National Center for International Health Regulations to serve as a focal point for
communication with the World Health Organization regarding international health regulations. We have always been keen in implementing the regulations through specialized teams working around the clock to monitor and prevent health emergency risks and respond immediately to them.

The annual reports on core capacities indicate that Kuwait has managed to take a leading position in the Eastern Mediterranean region in implementing the International Health Regulations. Kuwait has consistently demonstrated outstanding performance among the global average in implementing core capacities, which is consistent with Kuwait's belief that cooperation between countries and the exchange of information and expertise are crucial elements in enhancing the global response to health crises.

Despite the significant role of international health regulations in global health security for decades, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to enhance them in certain areas to make them more suitable and adaptable for their purpose. We also believe that the amendments made to the IHR will strengthen the international community's ability to detect, prevent, and respond to public health emergencies including pandemic.

This prompted the State of Kuwait, to participate in the activities of the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations, which was
established based on the recommendations of the Executive Board of the World Health Assembly at its 150th session in 2022.

Kuwait also contributed to the proposed texts through consultations conducted by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean.

Kuwait will remain supportive of efforts to achieve effective global response and enhance collective coordination against current and future health risks, in accordance with mutual respect between countries and commitment to the principle of national sovereignty.

Thank you, Chair.