



## **SAMOA INTERVENTION ON AGENDA ITEM 8** **“IMPLEMENTATION OF IHR”** **Report by the Director General**

Mr Chairman/Madam Chair  
Honorable Ministers,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to give this statement on behalf of the Samoa government to acknowledge with gratitude the consolidated report by the Director General on the Implementation of the International Health Regulations 2005.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank WHO, the governments of Australia and New Zealand, the World Bank, ADB, and other development partners for their continuous support for Samoa during the measles epidemic in 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years, and the current dengue outbreak.

Your support has been instrumental in the effective domestication of the International Health Regulations 2005 Core Capacities during our preparedness and responses. We could not have achieved this without you.

Samoa has completed its first Joint External Evaluation of the national capacities required by the International Health Regulations from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. This evaluation was done in partnership with the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

Samoa is very fortunate to have this initiative to help us assess our national capacities to prevent, detect, and respond quickly and well to public health risks and advance our national health security. We commend WHO and the World Bank for their technical and financial support.

The COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies we have faced in the past five years have underscored the urgent need for us to do more to prepare for future emergencies before they occur. We are committed to reviewing our health systems and our preparations to respond to future epidemics and pandemics, and we rely on your continued support to ensure we are fully compliant with the International Health Regulations.

While we note in the report that capacity-building support in relation to capacities at points of entry for preparedness, readiness and response to health emergencies had already been done in the five regions, we welcome the efforts of the Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and the Assembly to consider having this kind of capacity-building support for the Western Pacific Region, to further enhance our preparedness, readiness and response to future public health emergencies.

Thank You.