

**U.S. statement for adoption of the resolution at WHA77 on “Strengthening health emergency preparedness for disasters resulting from natural hazards”
May 30, 2024**

Thank you Chair. The United States thanks Croatia, Fiji and Mozambique for their apt and transparent leadership throughout the many months of negotiations on this very important resolution. The term “gender-responsive” has enjoyed consensus for decades across fora in both Geneva and beyond. In the WHO space, WHA and EB resolutions have contained the term “gender-responsive” since at least 2010 and this term has held consensus guiding the WHO’s technical work for more than 14 years. When we use the term “Gender-responsive” we are calling on member states, the UN system including the WHO, civil society and other stakeholders to make impactful and lasting changes. We regret that last minute amendments were brought forward to change this long-standing technically accurate consensus language. These amendments not only undermine the technical nature of the WHO’s work, but also do not reflect proposals made in the room. We view this resolution as building upon recent resolutions, including the General Assembly resolution submitted by the G77 last September which focused on addressing humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters. And we note that that resolution, which was adopted earlier this year and uses “gender-responsive,” was supported by the three member states with us here today who are driving the amendments.

We are happy to see they did not pass, so that the WHO can continue doing its work. However, we regret that a vote was called on this critical resolution.]