

Intervention by H.E. Dr. Sung Vinntak,
Secretary of State, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Cambodia
78th Session of the World Health Assembly (WHA78)
on Health Emergencies Preparedness and Response (16.1, 16.3, 16.4, 17.1, 17.4)
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
19-27 May 2025

Honorable Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cambodia reaffirms its strong commitment to enhancing its ability to prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies.

Over the past years, Cambodia has made important strides in advancing health emergency preparedness. We congratulate the adoption of WHO Pandemic Agreement and the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), and I am pleased to share that Cambodia has initiated the designation of the Cambodia CDC as the National IHR Authority, in line with the new requirements that will take effect in September 2025.

In 2024, Cambodia conducted a second Joint External Evaluation (JEE), core capacities which showed improvement from 42% to 59% in demonstrated capacities since 2016, and conducted Cambodia's national all-hazards risk assessment identified 18 major risks, reinforcing multi-hazard readiness. The country is finalizing an updated National Action Plan for Health Security (2025–2027) and a new pandemic preparedness and response plan, both aligned with WHO's PRET framework through a participatory, multisectoral approaches, ensuring alignment with the Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework.

Regular testing of our systems has been prioritized. 2024, Cambodia successfully participated in the IHR Crystal Exercise, and in January 2025, we conducted our annual IHR State Party Self-Assessment Review, with 19 ministries and 9 development partners. While our level 4 scores saw a minor decline due to recalibrations following the JEE, this process reaffirms our transparency and dedication to continuous improvement.

From March 2024 to April 2025, Cambodia reported 8 new H5N1 cases, all effectively contained through a coordinated One Health response with national and international partners, using surveillance, contact tracing, and public engagement.

The overall Cambodia's dedication to strengthening health security through collaboration and a comprehensive approach, recognizing that health security is integral to national security.

I Thank you.