



**Statement by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) at the
78th World Health Assembly, 19-27 May 2025
Agenda Item 16.3 – Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)**

Thank you, Chair.

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) underscores the vital role that legal preparedness plays in strengthening global health security.

As countries work to implement the amended International Health Regulations (IHR) and set out enhanced commitments to protect the world from future pandemics, robust legal and regulatory frameworks are essential to operationalize commitments, ensure coherence across sectors, and build public trust. At the national level, this means ensuring that laws and regulations are clear, coherent, and aligned with international obligations; that institutional mandates are well-defined; and that public health measures are implemented in ways that uphold human rights, equity, and the rule of law.

Addressing and strengthening countries' legal preparedness for PHEs requires an investment in building and enhancing the capacities of local actors to effectively use legal instruments in all phases of an emergency, from prevention to recovery.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, IDLO has built on its mandate to advance the rule of law to achieve sustainable development, and on its commitment to making laws and institutions work for people, by supporting countries to strengthen their national legal and policy frameworks on preparedness and response to PHEs, building institutional capacity, and promoting whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to health security.

Acknowledging and congratulating countries in their effort to advance global health security, IDLO calls for greater recognition and investments in legal preparedness as a foundational element of pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response and, resilient and equitable health systems.

IDLO remains committed to working with WHO, Member States, and all partners to advance legal preparedness as a critical competency to prevent and control public health crises.

Thank you.