



Statement of Ireland
78th World Health Assembly
Item 16.2

**Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO
convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic
prevention, preparedness and response**

19th May 2025

Chair,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,

Ireland aligns with the European Union and warmly welcomes the WHO Pandemic Agreement.

I want to congratulate all those involved in achieving this landmark agreement in global health policy. We commend them for their dedication, perseverance and unity of purpose.

The meaningful provisions of the Agreement presented today represent a powerful step towards safeguarding everyone, everywhere from the threat of future pandemic emergencies.

The commitment to prevention through a One Health approach – a first of its kind – recognises the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health in our response to emerging health threats.

The establishment of a Global Supply Chain and Logistics Network and a Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing System will ensure that the response to future health threats will be faster, more effective and more equitable. In this regard, Ireland is ready to continue its constructive engagement through the development of an integral Annex under Article 12.

In the current geopolitical climate, the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement is a timely and welcome win for multilateralism. It reaffirms the global community's shared commitment to solidarity and collective action in the face of global health threats.

I would like to conclude by paying tribute to an immense actor in the field of global health, and one of our own, Dr. Mike Ryan.

Without his wise advice and interventions, during the negotiations, there may not have been a Pandemic Agreement before us today.

Slán go fóill Mike, we wish you well in your next chapter.

Finally, I want to reiterate Ireland's gratitude to Director-General Tedros for his leadership and commitment throughout this historic process.