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The Philippines joins this Assembly with a firm conviction that health emergency preparedness and system resilience must be framed as a global public good to promote sustained political commitment, global solidarity and equitable resource allocation.

Health Emergency Preparedness and Response investments are essential, not just for disease response, but for global resilience, peace and sustainable development. Investments in HEPR capacities must be integrated into national health strategies and budgets, including donor support and innovative financing mechanisms. Strengthening capacities in terms of healthcare workforce, resilient supply chains and health facilities will ensure continuous provision of services in the midst of any crisis.

A dual-track approach can be adopted by pursuing short-term emergency response through well-funded, capacitated emergency units; and long-term response by embedding health system strengthening components into emergency responses.

Emergency Medical Teams should be involved in the development and conduct of regular simulation exercises to help identify the gaps in coordination and response mechanisms. National health emergency preparedness plans should clearly stipulate the roles and responsibilities of the EMTs including specialized cells, deployment protocols, and integration to the broader health system.

On IHR, the Philippines commits to strengthen IHR implementation through participation in voluntary activities under its monitoring and evaluation framework. Stakeholders across the human, animal and environmental health spectrum are engaged in the conduct of Joint External Evaluation and Intra-action review.

My delegation stands ready to help ensure that the WHO will continue to strengthen its core functions for health emergencies, despite financial and workforce constraints. The support to each Member State must remain fair and equitable.

Finally, the Philippines duly acknowledges the report of the IOAC and echoes its call for multilateralism and solidarity among Member States. Thank you.