

[SHORT VERSION]

PORTUGAL

STATEMENT

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

78TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(19 – 27 MAY 2025)

*Item.78.-.Intergovernmental.Negotiating.Body.to.draft.and.negotiate.a.WHO.convention?
agreement.or.other.international.instrument.on.pandemic.prevention?preparedness.and.response*

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

We welcome the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and thank its Bureau and the WHO Secretariat for steering this complex process with transparency and inclusiveness.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed critical gaps in global solidarity and health security. It also reaffirmed the central role of WHO. Portugal supports the adoption of a WHO Pandemic Agreement that enhances our shared preparedness and response, grounded in equity, solidarity, and national ownership.

We value the Agreement's focus on timely information sharing, resilient health systems, and equitable access to medical countermeasures. Operationalising a fair and effective WHO Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System will be key to realising these goals.

Portugal stresses the importance of coherence between this Agreement and the revised International Health Regulations. Both are complementary tools for stronger global health governance.

Mr. Chair,

Consensus may not imply full unanimity, but it does reflect a collective will to act. Portugal remains committed to multilateral cooperation and to the WHO's leadership in this area. We will examine the final text with care and continue to engage actively in its future implementation.

Thank you.

[185 words]