

PORTUGAL

STATEMENT

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

78TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(19 – 27 MAY 2025)

Item.790. Universal Health and Preparedness Review (UHPR)

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Portugal has been engaged with the Universal Health and Preparedness Review (UHPR) since its presentation at WHA74. This reflects our enduring commitment to international mechanisms that reinforce global health security and system resilience.

Portugal is proud to be the first—and so far, only—country in the WHO European Region to have completed the UHPR process. This was a comprehensive effort, involving 13 ministries, 36 public institutions, 22 civil society organizations, and the private sector.

This has enabled us to consolidate key lessons from the COVID-19 response and apply them to subsequent health emergencies, such as mpox, avian influenza, and hepatitis of unknown origin. It also contributed to advancing our preparedness through the European Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessment (PHEPA), under the new EU regulation on serious cross-border threats to health—strengthening intersectoral collaboration for prevention, preparedness, and response.

We also highlight the Global Peer Review held at WHO Headquarters in February 2024, which offered an important platform for mutual learning and cooperation. It brought health security and universal health coverage to the forefront of international dialogue and gave Portugal the opportunity to share its perspective while learning from others.

Portugal volunteered for the UHPR to help pave the way for other countries, seeing it as an opportunity to strengthen governance, improve policy coherence, and give momentum to national initiatives in alignment with global health priorities.

We remain committed to sharing our experience and supporting Member States interested in engaging with the UHPR process, fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability, and shared progress in health.

Thank you.