



78TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

SOUTH AFRICA NATIONAL STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM 16.3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005)

Thank you, Chairperson.

1. South Africa aligns with the statement delivered by Ethiopia on behalf of the Africa Region
2. South Africa will foster multi-sectoral collaboration, and invest in building robust, equitable, and integrated public health capacities, particularly in surveillance, detection, and response
3. The successful implementation of the amended IHR will require the development of core capacities by investing in building the skills and capabilities of the health workforce, including healthcare, veterinary, and environmental health workers, with programs focused on pandemic response readiness, genomic research, and risk communication.
4. To implement these core capacities will require the operationalization of the financing mechanism for IHR implementation. This will involve a multi-pronged approach of actively engaging with the Coordinating

Financial Mechanism, strengthening domestic financial commitment and management, leveraging strategic partnerships, and ensuring transparent accountability for resource utilization.

5. We will continue to advocate that the financing mechanism's role must genuinely address the financing needs of developing countries and avoid adopting a "one-size-fits-all" approach.
6. The operationalization and financing of our National Action Plans for Health Security (NAPHS) (2025-2029) also includes strengthening the legal framework for IHR implementation through a comprehensive legal analysis and addressing gaps at national and provincial levels.
7. Given the role of the IHR to the prevention of health emergencies and the importance of their universal application for the protection of all people of the world from the international spread of disease, South Africa wishes to call on the World Health Assembly (WHA) to support the draft resolution ***“Notifying the International Health Regulations to Palestine”***, which we have cosponsored.

I thank you.