



78th World Health Assembly, 19-27 May 2025
Intervention by Vanuatu (1 minutes)

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Committee B

Agenda 18.1 The impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health

Hon Chairperson,

Vanuatu is honored to stand as a co-sponsor of this important resolution addressing the profound and devastating effects of nuclear weapons and nuclear war on public health.

Science evidence, historical experience, and expert consensus leave no doubt, the detention of nuclear weapons- whether international, accidental or as part of conflict- would result in catastrophic loss of life, overwhelming healthcare system, long-term environmental contamination, and irreversible harm to human health. The effects would not be confined to any single region, they would ripple across borders, affecting global food security, disrupting climate patterns, and endangering million.

As the specialized UN body responsible for global health governance, the WHO must have the most updated information regarding the science and research to better understand the human health implications of nuclear weapons and nuclear war. Indeed, more than 30 years of scientific research and studies require consideration to update the existing reports. Thus, this resolution is not about political divisions.

We call on all member states to support this resolution, to ensure that WHO relays the best available science and provides member states with the most accurate understanding of what is at stake where human health is concerned.

I thank you.