



**Republic of the Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul**

SEVENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER, GENEVA 18-23 MAY, 2026

Sub Item 13.1	Report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
Documents	A79/6
Requested action	Take note of the report
Time limit	1 minute
<u>Commission</u>	<u>A</u>

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Gambia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the WHO African Region

The Gambia thanks the Secretariat for the report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee (IOAC), which highlights both progress achieved and remaining challenges. We appreciate WHO's leadership in responding to 51 graded emergencies across 89 countries and territories in 2024 and recognize the dedication of health workers serving on the frontlines of these crises.

We take note of the Committee's call for stronger, more predictable financing for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme. Flexible funding and increased assessed contributions are not optional; they are essential to safeguarding global public health and ensuring timely and effective emergency responses.

The Gambia remains fully committed to working with WHO and fellow Member States to strengthen preparedness, build resilient health systems, and ensure accountability in protecting the health of our populations. We encourage the Committee to continue its vital oversight role, with a strong focus on accountability,

transparency, and performance improvement, particularly as the world continues to face increasingly complex and intersecting health emergencies.

We also acknowledge WHO's accountability mechanisms, especially efforts to prevent sexual misconduct, abuse, and harassment. These measures are critical to preserving trust, integrity, and credibility in emergency operations.

Finally, we echo the Committee's emphasis on flexible and predictable financing. For countries such as The Gambia, reliance on external assistance can affect timely response, underscoring the need for increased domestic investment and stronger international solidarity.

Thank you.