



**Statement by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) at the
79th World Health Assembly, 18-23 May, 2026**

Agenda Item 13.2 Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

Thank you, Chair

The International Development Law Organization thanks the Secretariat for the report on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and welcomes Member States' continued attention to strengthening global capacity for prevention, preparedness, and response.

The effective implementation of the IHR is not only a technical undertaking, but also a legal and governance challenge. Experience from recent public health emergencies has shown that the existence of clear, coherent, and implementable legal frameworks is essential to enable timely action, coordination across sectors, and compliance with international obligations.

IDLO wishes to highlight the importance of legal preparedness as a foundational, yet often underemphasized, dimension of IHR implementation. Domestic legal frameworks play a critical role in operationalizing core capacities, as well as in clarifying institutional roles and responsibilities.

We encourage Member States and partners to strengthen legal preparedness in support of IHR implementation, including through legal assessments, law reform processes, and capacity building at national and subnational levels. IDLO stands ready to leverage its experience supporting countries in strengthening their legal capacity for the implementation of the IHR.

Thank you