



79th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 20.1 – Reform of the Global Health Architecture and the UN80 Initiative

Statement of the International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

22 May 2026, Geneva

The IFRC welcomes the report on Reforming the Global Health Architecture. In a context of rising humanitarian needs, climate shocks, conflict, and shrinking development financing, maintaining the status quo is not an option.

IFRC wishes to highlight three points.

First, reforms must place communities at the centre. Local actors, including National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, community health workers and civil society organisations, are essential to resilient health systems. Sustained investment in primary health care and community-based services remains critical.

Second, financing reforms must support equity and long-term sustainability. Innovative financing approaches should include strong safeguards, transparency and accountability, while strengthen national systems and avoid deeper inequalities.

Third, fragile and conflict-affected settings require flexible and sustained support. Global health reforms must respond to protracted crises while strengthening locally led recovery and preparedness. Health is fundamentally about solidarity, justice and trust. A renewed global health architecture must strengthen country ownership, shift power closer to communities, and ensure that no one is left behind.

We stand ready to support WHO and Member States in advancing a resilient and inclusive global health architecture.

Thank you.