



Statement of Ireland

79th World Health Assembly

Item 13.2

Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

19 May 2026

**Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Ireland thanks the Director-General for the report and takes note of the extension of the standing recommendations for Mpox and COVID-19, issued in accordance with the International Health Regulations.

We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and obligations of the IHR, recognising their essential role in strengthening global health security, promoting transparency and cooperation, and supporting timely coordinated response to the international spread of disease.

Chair,

Ireland recognises the importance of regular self-assessment to ensure effective national prevention, preparedness and response capacities and capabilities.

We were pleased to participate in the JADE exercise to test IHR communications and we conducted our first All-hazards Health Threats Risk Assessment this year, supported by WHO/Europe. This provided an invaluable opportunity to guide our future efforts to strengthen preparedness and response capacities in Ireland.

The recent cluster of Hantavirus infections shows that the IHR is an important tool to coordinate efforts and assist Member States in containing any such disease.

We look forward to the operationalisation of the Coordinating Financial Mechanism through the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group.

In conclusion, Ireland reaffirms its commitment to collaborate with Member States to ensure the effective implementation of the IHR in the interest of global public health.

Thank you Chair