



Statement of Ireland

79th World Health Assembly

Item 13.3

Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic

Agreement

18 May 2026

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

[Ireland aligns with the statement to be delivered by the European Union.]

Ireland would like to express our sincere appreciation to the IGWG Bureau, the Secretariat and WHO Member States for their unwavering commitment to this negotiation process.

While we regret that it has not been possible to conclude the negotiation of the PABS Annex by this Health Assembly, we recognise that reaching consensus on a matter of such technical complexity and of such vital importance for global health security, requires patience, trust and careful deliberation.

Our collective work to date, has brought us significantly closer to a PABS System capable of delivering meaningful and equitable outcomes for all. As we continue

this process, we must redouble our efforts and engage meaningfully with each other to bring the Annex to a successful conclusion.

Chair,

As we know, pathogens do not recognise borders, nor do they respect extended negotiating timelines. The lessons learnt in recent years have demonstrated that no country is safe unless all are equipped to prevent, prepare for and respond to emerging health threats.

It is therefore essential that the momentum of last year's historical adoption of the Pandemic Agreement is maintained, and that the IGWG moves swiftly towards a successful conclusion. This will allow the Agreement to be opened for signature and ratification, and for the translation of its important provisions into concrete actions.

An effective, implementable and equitable PABS System will strengthen trust, improve timely access to pathogens and ensure benefit sharing, and contribute to a more resilient and responsive global health architecture which will benefit the entire international community.

Ireland remains firmly committed to an inclusive, consensus-based process. As we prepare to assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, we reiterate our commitment to engaging constructively with all partners to advance these negotiations towards a successful outcome for the benefit of current and future generations.

Thank you Chair