



ISRAEL National Statement WHA 79 – 18.05.26

Ambassador Daniel Meron

Mr. President, Excellencies,

The World Health Organization faces challenges that demand decisive action to advance credibility, sustainability, and good governance.

Such action is essential to ensuring all Member States and all people benefit from a strong and effective global health body - one that can effectively coordinate responses when needed, promote universal health coverage, and foster innovation.

Indeed, international collaboration remains the engine of global health. By exchanging data and scaling best practices, we have achieved breakthroughs in oncology and acute trauma rehabilitation that were once unimaginable.

Mr. President,

The financial constraints facing the Organization require us to refocus on WHO's core mandate. This means working above political considerations, ensuring we are led not by political agendas, but by professional standards alone. As we approach the selection of a new Director-General, we must ensure that WHO's leadership is transparent and accountable.

In recent years, we have witnessed a deeply concerning divergence from WHO's professional work and commitment to neutrality. We expect a higher standard from WHO. It must adhere to professionalism and scientific integrity, and prevent political distractions from undermining WHO's important work, including removing standing political agenda items.

We call on the Secretariat to review the WHO system for Surveillance of health in conflict, to ensure stricter alignment with WHO's mandate in support of the Health Cluster, guide resource allocation and shape mitigation strategies.



We must focus our efforts to ensure continuity of care delivery including in times of conflict, and Israel stands ready to share its experiences.

Mr. President,

Israel is a global leader in AI-driven healthcare, combining advanced medical data, world-class hospitals, and a dynamic innovation ecosystem. Israel stands ready to share its expertise to help advance better healthcare worldwide.

Israel places great importance on inclusive participation in the World Health Assembly at least in the capacity of observers, as was previously the established practice. We believe WHO should maintain an open and inclusive approach in the interest of advancing global health. We remain hopeful that a constructive path forward will be identified.

Finally, we must address the persistent challenge of misinformation, which continues to erode critical public health efforts. WHO must update its communication strategies to engage the public directly, countering falsehoods with evidence-based clarity to restore global trust.

Thank you.