

**WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
18-23 MAY 2026,
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**SPEAKING NOTES ON AGENDA ITEM 14.2
STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEASURES.
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Mr. President,

Jamaica acknowledges the report of the Director General and notes the progress made by the Secretariat.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for rapid upscaling of research initiatives, as well as for relevant and timely evidence to strengthen public health decision-making. The initiatives of the WHO Secretariat will strengthen the local clinical trials ecosystem, as well as facilitate the development of research networks and multi-country clinical trials in low and middle income settings.. However, further technical support may be needed to strengthen the relevant legal, policy and ethical frameworks undergirding research within member states.

Recalling resolution 78.3, Jamaica reports that progress has been made on a number of areas. These include the establishment of a national health research agenda (2024-2028) which has been endorsed by the main tertiary training institutions. Work on a policy on research for health to provide a governance framework on research has been initiated. A Research for Wellness Fund was initiated to fund research to support the wellness initiatives of the Ministry. Jamaica developed a COVID-19 Research Agenda during the pandemic, with seven research working groups. This has established networks which will facilitate rapid scale-up in future public health emergencies.

The report made by the WHO Secretariat on Strengthening the Public Health and Evidence Base for Public Health and Social Measures is endorsed and supported by Jamaica.