



SAMOA STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 13.1 & 13.2 (WHA79/6 & WHA79/8- PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES – PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE; AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005))

Thank you Chair,

Samoa aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Pacific Island Countries.

We thank the Director-General and the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for their reports.

For Samoa and other Small Island Developing States, health emergencies are increasingly frequent and complex, driven by climate-related disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, and pressures on fragile health systems. These challenges require sustained international cooperation, and continued investment in WHO's Health Emergencies Programme to preserve essential emergency capacities and support vulnerable countries.

Samoa welcomes ongoing implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and the 2024 amendments. However, as a geographically isolated island nation with limited resources, sustaining core IHR capacities remains challenging, particularly in preparedness, workforce retention, and resilient health systems.

We therefore call for:

- sustainable financing for emergency preparedness and response;



- strengthened support for Small Island Developing States in implementing the IHR amendments;
- continued investment in preparedness mechanisms and workforce development; and
- stronger partnerships that build long-term resilience and country ownership.

Samoa also welcomes the WHO Pandemic Agreement and encourages the timely conclusion of negotiations on the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing Annex.

Samoa remains committed to working with WHO and Member States to strengthen global health security and ensure no country is left behind.

Thank you.