



SAMOA STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 79.6- PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Thank you Chair,

Samoa welcomes the report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, and acknowledges WHO's continued leadership in strengthening global health emergency preparedness and response.

For Small Island Developing States such as Samoa, health emergencies are becoming more frequent, and complex due to the combined impacts of climate change, natural disasters, outbreaks of infectious diseases, and increasing pressures on fragile health systems. We therefore strongly support continued investment in preparedness, resilient health systems, surveillance, workforce development, and rapid response capacities.

Samoa acknowledges and appreciates the longstanding support of WHO, particularly through the WHO Representative Office in Samoa, the Western Pacific Regional Office, and collaboration with development partners. This support has strengthened Samoa's International Health Regulations core capacities, emergency operations, laboratory systems, workforce training, simulation exercises, and pandemic preparedness planning. WHO's assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, measles recovery efforts, and responses to climate-related emergencies, has been critical in protecting the health and wellbeing of our people.



We also acknowledge the valuable contributions of partners including UNICEF, UN agencies, the Pacific Community, development banks, and bilateral partners in supporting national preparedness and resilience efforts. Continued partnership and predictable financing remain essential for Pacific island countries.

Samoa shares the Committee's concern regarding declining global health financing, and the risks this poses to WHO's emergency capacities and the Contingency Fund for Emergencies. We support sustainable and predictable financing for WHO, so that it can continue to provide timely support to vulnerable countries, particularly Small Island Developing States and least developed countries.

We further welcome ongoing efforts to strengthen country ownership, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, and regional collaboration in health security. Samoa remains committed to working closely with WHO and partners to build resilient systems, that can better prevent, prepare for, and respond to future public health emergencies.

I thank you.