



SAMOA STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 13.3 (79/8)- OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON WHO PANDEMIC AGREEMENT

Thank you Chair,

Samoa aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Pacific Island Countries and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Samoa welcomes the progress made by the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement and thanks the Co-Chairs, Bureau, Member States and the WHO Secretariat for their continued efforts toward a fair and effective Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System.

For small island developing states such as Samoa, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted both our vulnerabilities and our resilience. Geographic isolation, limited laboratory capacity, supply chain disruptions, and dependence on external markets severely affected timely access to diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics. At the same time, strong community engagement and regional solidarity enabled Samoa to strengthen preparedness and response systems.

Samoa appreciates the support already provided through WHO and partners in strengthening surveillance systems, laboratory capabilities, workforce development, vaccine deployment, and emergency preparedness. These investments have contributed significantly to improving Samoa's national preparedness capacities and our ability to respond to future health emergencies.



We therefore support continued negotiations on the PABS Annex and emphasize that the Pandemic Agreement must deliver equitable and timely access to pandemic-related health products for all countries, particularly vulnerable developing states and small island developing states. The proposed commitments on technology transfer, capacity building, research collaboration and access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are important elements that must remain central to the negotiations.

Samoa also welcomes provisions supporting laboratory strengthening and capacity building for developing countries through the WHO Coordinated Laboratory Network. For Pacific countries, sustainable regional and national laboratory capacity is essential for timely detection, surveillance and response.

As negotiations continue, Samoa encourages all Member States to maintain the spirit of solidarity, equity and transparency that underpins this Agreement. We must ensure that no country is left behind in future pandemics.

Samoa remains committed to constructive engagement toward a meaningful and implementable Pandemic Agreement that strengthens global health security for present and future generations.

I thank you.