WHO’s Work In Health Emergencies: Strengthening WHO’s global Emergency Response and preparedness & Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

Agenda Item 14.2

US WRITTEN STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

- The United States applauds the work of the Review Committee outlined in this interim progress report, and we are encouraged by the issues on which they have focused and the extent of their analysis to date.

- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the global community is not adequately prepared to prevent, detect, and respond to severe infectious diseases with pandemic potential. The severe health and economic impacts resulting from COVID-19 are a call to action for the global community.

- We encourage WHO to ensure that humanitarian complex emergencies are also provided with targeted CoVID-19 guidance and support, including rapid access to the humanitarian buffer stock for vulnerable populations and humanitarian aid workers.

- While the IHR provides a sound legal framework, implementation and compliance has been insufficient, as demonstrated by the uneven COVID-19 response. In addition, several issues being investigated by this Review Committee were highlighted by previous Review Committees.

- We look forward to continuing to support the work of the Review Committee, to the release of their final report and recommendations, and to working with the WHO and other Member States to strengthen our collective capabilities to adequately prepare for and effectively respond to future health security threats.

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