



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

Statement by Fiji at the WHO Executive Board 152nd Session on Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies Item No. 12.1 – Strengthening WHO Preparedness for and Response to Health Emergencies

Monday 30 January 2023, Executive Board Room, WHO

Statement 1

Mister Chairman/Madam Chair

Fiji recognises the leading role of WHO as central in strengthening global preparedness and response thus its' continued guidance is key in preparing and addressing future health emergencies which need not only be limited to pandemics. Equally important is the multisectoral role we play in contributing and supporting the key pillars of the Organisation towards UHC. A greater synergy of all sectors to reduce gaps with forward-thinking measures is essential and we regard this proposal as a step in the right direction. Therefore, we thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for the compilation of this report.

The report including the proposals ten (10) proposals together with the principles of equity, inclusivity and coherence at its centre is supported by my delegation.

The strengthening of the HEPR through the proposals paves the way forward in addressing the new health threat of our time where we need to up our game a notch. We support the strengthening of the global HEPR architecture, as this is key in reducing the human, social, and economic costs of health emergencies over the long term which must be recognised as part of the broader effort towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Key aspects mentioned in the proposal is governance and partnerships. As small island developing state with inherent vulnerabilities due to climate change and natural disasters and which poses an additional burden on NCDs and mental health, and we recognise that governance and partnerships are critical to meet the 2030 Agenda.

The establishment of a Global Health Pandemic Council is important to complement and strengthen the ongoing Committee. The Council not only should be merit and expert based, it should also take into account equitable geographical representation. With this, the appropriate amendments to the IHR is supported by Fiji, and we will continue to support this work. We thank the WHO and member states for the inclusive process which has enabled two experts from the Pacific, Dr. Ashley Bloomfield of New Zealand as Co-Chair of the Working Group for IHR and Dr. Aalisha Sahukhan as a member of the IHR Review Committee.

Strengthening of health emergency workforce is generally supported, in view of our region as a country regularly impacted by climate change and natural disasters, we have continued to build our capacities in preparation for such events through our



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

Emergency Medical Teams. Upskilling of our Officials within our region to prepare for such shocks by WHO and partners would be welcomed. With this, finance is a key feature in our operation and budget needs to be set aside to conduct intercountry or interregional awareness and drive towards a whole -of -society approach.

Finally, Fiji looks forward to playing its part upon the approval of improved preparedness, response and countermeasures in any health emergencies.

Thank you