

**Agenda Item 15.3/15.5**

- 15.3: WHO's work in health emergencies
- 15.5: Global Health for Peace Initiative

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**Constituency Statement delivered by Global Health Council**

**on behalf of IntraHealth International, Sabin Vaccine Institute, Save the Children, Task Force for Global Health, United Nations Foundation, WaterAid, Women Deliver, World Vision International and Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance**

GHC and the aforementioned NSAs welcome the opportunity to comment on WHO's work in health emergencies.

WHO's integral role during COVID-19 proves no alternative organization exists that is as inclusive, transparent, and willing to act equitably. WHO has immense value and is central to the global health architecture. It must be strengthened to coordinate international responses, bolster Member State capacity to respond to emerging threats, and better protect people from health emergencies.

We applaud efforts to strengthen pandemic preparedness, including establishing the Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, the BioHub System, and the Universal Health and Preparedness Review. We also welcome initiatives that improve the effective management of health emergencies, like the Health Systems for Health Security Framework and the expansion of the IHR monitoring and evaluation framework.

We call on WHO and Member States to improve their work in health emergencies by:

- Fully funding the ACT-Accelerator, particularly the health systems connector, and equitably distributing COVID-19 vaccines to reach 70% of the world's population by midyear;
- Sustainably financing WHO and its emergency response capacities like the Contingency Fund for Emergencies;
- Bolstering national action plans for health security, including essential public health functions like field epidemiology, to improve resiliency;
- Ensuring the continuity of essential health services, including nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support, WASH, sexual and reproductive health, and routine immunizations;
- Addressing the gendered impact of health emergencies, focusing on the differential impacts that intersecting inequalities have on communities and individuals;



- Preparing for infectious disease impacts resulting from the alteration of nature and climate change, such as zoonotic spillover and water- and foodborne disease outbreaks.
- Investing in health workforce strengthening, focusing on continued medical education and creating safe, equitable work environments with high quality facilities; and
- Facilitating a multisectoral, multidisciplinary approach to emergency preparedness which fosters synergies between security, systems, workforce, and other health area-specific sectors.

Thank you.