**Agenda Item:**
11.2 Public health preparedness and response

**Statement:**

GHC, supported by AAP, IDSA & MSH, welcome WHO’s continued efforts to strengthen its role in public health preparedness and response. We note the prominence of the Health Emergencies Program in the GPW. The quick declaration of an Ebola outbreak in the DRC shows that WHO is willing and better prepared to rapidly mobilize and scale up resources to contain outbreaks. The Health Emergencies Program supports 22 countries to develop the health workforce and strengthen early detection capacities and national surveillance systems. Yet, critical work remains to be done. More than 70 countries have completed the JEE process. However, there are questions regarding the costing, prioritization, financing, and implementation of the resulting national action plans to address gaps identified in the JEEs, and ultimately bring more countries in compliance with IHR. We urge a continued emphasis on the need for strong multisectoral engagement, including human and animal health, agriculture, and security. Continued support is needed to build, train and maintain an adequate health workforce for preparedness and response. We applaud the emphasis on intersectoral action and support for the One Health approach, which is critical for surveillance and response generally and in particular for slowing the spread of antibiotic resistance. A coordinated effort must be made to accelerate pandemic preparedness. We recommend that WHO continue to provide support to countries to develop and implement financed NAP that strengthen health systems, workforces and other core capacities needed during a health emergency. WHO and international donors need to work together, in a transparent and coordinated manner, to catalyze the implementation of NAP. Finally, given the gendered vulnerability posed by outbreaks, and the impact of epidemics on the private sector, we recommend greater engagement with the private sector and civil society—particularly women—in the development and implementation of NAP.