



**Statement by Pakistan at the 76th session the World Health Assembly
(WHA76)**

***Agenda 15: Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health
emergencies***

(21-30 May 2023)

Thank you, Mr. Vice President

Pakistan recognizes the significance of WHO's work during health emergencies and commend the organization's leadership in raising awareness, and in mobilizing support for equitable and affordable access to diagnostics, therapeutics, and medicines.

We would first like to thank WHO and the global community for coming together in aid of Pakistan during its flood relief activities. Pakistan critically benefitted from WHO's early response efforts and rapid risk assessment.

WHO was able to reach to millions of people in dire need of essential medicines and other medical supplies. WHO, through its regional and country offices, provided invaluable support to the government and local authorities in reaching the flood-affected areas, setting up medical camps, and mobilizing local and international support for the millions of the flood-affected people.

Mr. Vice President,

While COVID-19 is no longer a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, yet it will continue to impact the lives of many people. Therefore, we need to remain committed to cooperation and assistance.

We welcome the ten proposals by the Director General to tackle future Health Emergencies based on the principles of Coherence, Equity, and

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Inclusivity. These principles must remain the cornerstone of our future work on preparedness and response to future health emergencies.

Mr. Vice President,

Mobilization of international public and private finance is essential to develop resilient prevention and response tools to navigate future international health emergencies.

WHO's Contingency Fund for Emergencies provides critical lifeline during Health Emergencies. Pakistan benefited from the fund during last year's floods. Yet additional avenues of financing and support mechanisms are essential to prevent future health risks and emergencies.

Pakistan has been productively engaged in the ongoing processes of strengthening global health infrastructure. These processes remain critical to guide the future work of WHO and providing a framework to combat future Health Emergencies.

We continue to underline that the future architecture to prevent and respond to global health emergencies must be an equity-based system, as no one is safe until everyone is safe.

I thank you

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