



## Statement by Pakistan at the 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly

(WHA77)

*“13.3: Working Group on International Health Regulations (WGIHR)”*

*28 May 2024*

**Madam Chair,**

We join others in expressing our appreciation to the Working Group bureau for submitting their outcome to the Health Assembly.

Under their able leadership, the Working Group has made significant progress in the targeted amendments of the International Health Regulations.

The Working Group was mandated to update and strengthen IHR 2005 to address specific issues, including equity, technological or other developments.

Over the course of our work, many provisions have been added including *inter alia* strengthening reporting requirements of public health events and risks, and enhancing core capacities to prevent, prepare, and respond to public health emergencies.

It is important to mention that issues pertaining to equity remain pending, which are clear part of the mandate of this Working Group.

IHR is an important framework which allows public health authorities to address public health emergencies in a coordinated manner, not only at national level but also at regional and global level.

We need to provide our public health officials with enhanced tools that can help them address these emergencies in an effective way. Access to relevant health products and availability of additional financial resources are key to enable a comprehensive response mechanism.

Effective Implementation of the IHR can only be measured in a meaningful way once those additional support measures are available to implement additional obligations.

Pakistan remains committed to the process and supports its early conclusion as it is an important tool to combat public health emergencies.

However, this outcome would only be meaningful if it takes on board concerns of all parties.

We look forward to further discussions on the pending issues. We would not be in a position to support an approach which leads to a selective adoption of some provisions, while provisions pertaining to Equity remains an open-ended agenda.

Pakistan assures the Assembly of its continued constructive engagement on all pending issues and is committed to having a strengthened IHR, which aligns with the mandate that was given to the Working Group.

**I thank you.**

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