
World Health Organization
EB 144 – January 2019

5.2 Public Health Preparedness and Response

Thank you Madam Chair,

Israel would like to join the appreciation expressed by the IOAC for the work of the WHE in implementing the WHO's emergency reform. We join the congratulations to the Director-General, the Regional Directors, and the Deputy Director-General for the WHE Programme, for their leadership and commitment in reforming WHO's work on emergencies.

We are content with document **144/8** on the evaluation of the WHE, which demonstrates the Swift response to the recent Ebola outbreaks in the DRC. We are pleased to see that WHO's health emergency management reforms have had significant positive impact on: coordination, leadership, operational capacity, technical expertise, and the speed and scale of response.

As clearly stated in the GPW13, the WHE Programme is, and should be, an organizational priority. The Programme must continuously support Member States in building their emergency preparedness and response capacities, and develop long-term inter-agency strategies for the prevention and control of infectious diseases. These capacities should be evaluated by the JEE, in which Israel plays an active role.

As for the recommendation of the IOAC according to which the WHO should enhance its crisis preparedness and capacity development for security management, as well as technical expertise, we would like to note our strong willingness to contribute to these efforts through training and knowledge sharing. Specifically, we believe that better utilization of advanced technologies would positively contribute to both the availability of training programs, as well as their efficiency. We would once again note our preparedness to support such efforts.

One of the emerging risk that threatens health systems, among other thing, are cyber attacks. This risk has already proven to endanger patients and their wellbeing. We propose that the WHO should be involved in developing an international cyber that is aimed at protecting health systems. Israel is committed to support such a program, based on our experience and expertise.

We congratulate the WHE for the recognition expressed in this report and the increased confidence in its important work.

Thank you.