

World Health Organization EB 146 – February 2020

Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme

We would like to thank the Independent oversight and advisory committee for the report and support the recommendations included.

We appreciate the WHO's leadership in health emergency situations, especially given the simultaneous challenges and increase in the number of complex emergencies around the world.

With the growing need for assistance around the world, it is vital to have an effective tool for prioritizing and coordinating efforts to develop solutions and operational capacity for the work of the WHE program. We would like to support the IOAC recommendation in this regard.

We also support the recommendation to facilitate better engagement with non-state actors that are partners with proven records in disaster relief, while respecting the principles of the Framework of engagement with non-State actors (FENSA). We support the IOAC recommendation to develop such a policy as part of implementing FENSA and a systematic workflow applicable to all, and to make staff aware of it and use it to facilitate critical emergency responses.

Israel also propose for consideration instituting an annual questionnaire regarding emergency preparedness. This year, a new IHR questionnaire was released specifically addressing emergency preparedness, creating redundancies. This matter is better addressed with a single, annual follow-up can be far more efficient.

We support WHO's continuous investment and innovation in technology for health information and epidemiological data management. We will be very interested in learning on the use of the newly launched software tool 'Go.Data' supporting outbreak data management in field operations and recently deployed in the Ebola response. We will be happy to participate in further developing this important tool.

Thank you.