
**World Health Organization
WHA 72 – 22 May 2019**

**Committee A (11.2)
Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response**

Thank you Chairperson.

We would like to thank the secretariat for preparing the reports on this item.

The importance of strengthening national health systems' preparedness to respond to crisis cannot be overestimated. We would like to join the voices heard today in support of WHO's work in this context.

We wish to add our strong appreciation of the WHO's Emergency Medical Teams (EMT's) Initiative. The EMT's initiative is based on two important foundations: assisting member states in building capacity and strengthening their emergency health systems, and allowing for the smooth deployment of quality assured medical teams when emergencies occur.

We see the WHO as having an important role in leading joint efforts to promote a comprehensive approach in work on emergencies. An approach that includes the full emergency cycle, from prevention and preparedness, to response and recovery. It is only with this complete approach that will allow a successful implementation of the WHO's leading role in emergency situations.

We appreciate the briefings on emergency operation during the year; yet we would like to encourage the WHO to provide more detailed and comprehensive report on the work on health emergencies, as Document A72/7, present only a very brief overview of the work done in the past year on health emergencies.

Thank you.