

STATEMENT

WHO Executive Board 158

Agenda item No: 16 - WHO's Work in Health Emergencies

This statement is delivered by the IFPMA on behalf of:

- Global Medical Technology Alliance
- Global Self-Care Federation

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4 FEBRUARY 2026, GENEVA – We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the discussions at EB158. WHO's work on strengthening emergency preparedness reflects a shared commitment to ensuring the world is better equipped for future health threats. We welcome this direction and the emphasis on clarity, coordination, and readiness.

As EB158 documents highlight, WHO will now take on an expanded set of responsibilities including developing practical guidance, tools, and support for countries as they implement the new IHR provisions. It will be important that the criteria and processes remain clear, science-based, and consistently applied.

EB158/5 also outlines new expectations for i-MCM-Net and for work on manufacturing, supply chains, and broader emergency coordination. These are important areas, and our industries stand ready to collaborate. At the same time, it will be helpful to ensure that WHO's role continues to focus on what it does best: setting standards, supporting regulatory alignment, and coordinating information across countries.

Across the EB158 agenda, one theme stands out: the need for strong alignment between the amended IHR, the Pandemic Agreement, and the forthcoming PABS Annex. Ensuring these frameworks work smoothly together will help avoid the stacking of obligations and support efficient, coordinated implementation.

Our industries remain committed to working with WHO and Member States to strengthen preparedness. Clear processes, aligned frameworks, and well-defined roles will help us collectively achieve the shared goal of faster, more effective responses to future health emergencies.