

## 14.2 WHO's work in health emergencies

### Statement:

The pandemic has demonstrated the urgency to take critical steps in strengthening emergency preparedness in order to prevent future crises. WHO is uniquely placed to coordinate global efforts through democratic governance and international solidarity. WHO's role in health emergency leadership needs to be consolidated, including by securing sufficient funding.

The WHE programme serves a vital role in global health, but is severely under-funded. Adequate, sustainable, and untied funding by increasing assessed contributions and decreasing dependence on earmarked voluntary contributions is critical. WHO must shape its priorities based on science and urgency, not on the agendas of donors, whether powerful countries or NSAs.

We are concerned of violations of human rights in the name of responding to COVID-19. We urge MS to amend the IHRs with an explicit reference the Siracusa Principles to clarify that even in emergencies, the right to health cannot be pitted against other rights.

We recognize WHO's efforts to adjust the IHR to facilitate MS compliance. However, IHR cannot be viewed in a vacuum and must consider the robustness and level of development of countries' health systems. To ensure a shared responsibility among countries in preventing disease transmission, and avoid imposing a disproportionate burden on LMIC, financial and technical support to MS for IHR compliance is required.

The IHR Review Committee should uphold standards of transparency by publishing participants' name & organization, including for NSAs.

Increasing access to innovation is critical during health emergencies. We welcome WHO's support for the TRIPS waiver and urge MS to endorse this measure. We call for a strengthened C-TAP mechanism based on binding principles of ABS and urge MS to license publicly funded covid-19 technologies through C-TAP. Pharma companies' lack of participation in solidarity trials leaves us without comparative data on existing vaccines. MS and WHO should address this gap.