

Ref.: C.L.33.2025

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to States Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005) (“IHR”) and has the honour to refer to circular letter C.L.26.2025 regarding rejections, reservations, declarations and statements submitted by States Parties in respect of the amendments to the IHR adopted by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly through resolution WHA77.17 (2024) (“2024 amendments”), and entered into force on 19 September 2025.

... The Director-General, in his capacity as depository of the IHR and in order to promote shared understanding of individual States Parties’ considerations, has the honour to communicate further statements relating to the 2024 amendments that were received from Algeria, China, Eswatini, Greece, Namibia and Portugal. These statements are annexed to this circular letter.

The notifications, declarations and statements communicated through circular letter C.L.26.2025 and this circular letter will be included in the consolidated IHR text available on the WHO website.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to States Parties to the IHR the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 10 October 2025

... ENCLS.: (6)

Translated from French

The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Permanent Mission of Algeria to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and the other international organizations in Switzerland

No. 296/MPAG/R.A/2025

Note verbale

The Permanent Mission of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and the other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the World Health Organization (WHO) and has the honour to transmit herewith the contribution of the Algerian Ministry of Health to the amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005).

The Permanent Mission of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and the other international organizations in Switzerland takes this opportunity to convey to the World Health Organization (WHO) the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

[Official seal]

Geneva, 24 July 2025

World Health Organization (WHO)
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva
Switzerland
OLA@who.int

The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Health

Contributions of Algeria to the amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005)

Algeria is grateful to the World Health Organization and the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (WGIHR) for its sustained efforts culminating in the adoption of the body of amendments to the IHR (2005) on the occasion of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly.

This reform is a step towards strengthening global health security while emphasizing joint responsibilities to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies.

Algeria unreservedly and fully aligns itself with the amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005).

Points to be welcomed

Algeria welcomes in particular:

- The explicit mention of the principles of **equity, solidarity, transparency** and the **right to health** in the Principles of IHR (Article 3);
- The creation of an **early warning mechanism** prior to the declaration of a PHEIC to facilitate gradual mobilization of stakeholders;
- Strengthened requirements for **rapid notification** (24h), even in cases of uncertainty or an unusual situation;
- A focus on the tasks of **IHR focal points**, specifically their 24/24 availability and their multisectoral coordination;
- The mention of a **financial coordination** mechanism for aspects involving **rapid and equitable access to health products**.

Comments and proposals

- Despite these positives, Algeria has the following comments:

Limitation noted	Proposal
No specific mechanisms to ensure equitable access to medical countermeasures	Develop a voluntary operational framework coordinated by WHO to facilitate the availability of essential products to the most vulnerable States
No specific commitment on technical or financial support for implementation of IHR	Advocate for the creation of a multilateral support mechanism backed up by a WHO-donor State partnership to support national capacities
No binding accountability mechanism	Promote a periodic peer assessment, initially on voluntary basis, supported by technical recommendations
Risk of incompatibility with Pandemic Agreement	Call for normative and operational complementarity between both instruments, specifically on coordination, surveillance and sharing of information and resources

In conclusion, Algeria reaffirms its commitment to the IHR as a basic legal instrument for global health security. We stand ready to make an active contribution to the implementation and monitoring of the amendments that have been adopted, in a spirit of constructive cooperation, shared responsibility and strengthened collective resilience.



中华人民共和国常驻联合国日内瓦办事处和瑞士其他国际组织代表团

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

11 Chemin de Surville, 1213 Petit-Lancy
Tel: +41(0)22 879 56 78 Fax: +41(0)22 793 70 14
Email: chinamission_gva@mfa.gov.cn Website: www.china-un.ch

GJ2025-070

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the World Health Organization and refers to the *Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)* (hereinafter referred to as “the IHR amendments”) adopted in Geneva on June 1, 2024 during the 77th World Health Assembly and set forth in the notification of the IHR amendments by the Director-General on September 19, 2024, and, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as “the PRC”), to inform the following:

The Government of the PRC decides to accept the IHR amendments and declares that:

1. The Government of the PRC decides that the IHR amendments apply to the entire territory of the PRC, including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Taiwan Province.

2. The National Disease Control and Prevention Administration of the PRC is designated as China's National IHR Authority and National IHR Focal Point for the implementation of the IHR, pursuant to Article 4 of the IHR amendments. The health administrative authorities and the disease control administrative

World Health Organization

Geneva

authorities are the authorities for the implementation of health measures under the IHR within their respective competence. The General Administration of Customs of the PRC and its local offices are the competent authorities on the territory of the PRC of the points of entry referred to in Part VI of the IHR, pursuant to Article 19 of the IHR amendments.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the World Health Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.





PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI
CHEMIN WILLIAM-BARBÉY 51 - 1292 CHAMBESY - SWITZERLAND

NOTE VERBALE No 67/2025

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Eswatini to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the World Health Organization (WHO) and has the honour to transmit a letter addressed to the Director General H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Eswatini to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, take this opportunity to renew to World Health Organization (WHO) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 18 August 2025



To: World Health Organization (WHO)
Director-General Office
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne, 154
Case postale
1211 Genève 2



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

OUR REF: MH/605c

DATE: 6TH August 2025

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director-General
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Dr Tedros,

**Confirmation of Eswatini's Position on the 2024 Amendments to the
International Health Regulations (2005)**

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini, I wish to formally convey our position regarding the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), as adopted by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly through Resolution WHA77.17 on 1 June 2024.

Eswatini confirms that it has no reservations or rejections to the implementation of the amended International Health Regulations, referred to as the "2024 amendments."

We reaffirm our commitment to the International Health Regulations as a cornerstone of global health security and international cooperation, and we remain dedicated to fulfilling our obligations under the amended instrument in the spirit of solidarity and mutual accountability.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

HON. MDUDUZI MATSEBULA (MP)
MINISTER FOR HEALTH





**Permanent Mission of Greece
to the United Nations Office
and other International
Organizations in Geneva**

No:6395.1 /AS 987

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Director-General of the World Health Organization and, with reference to the latter's Note Verbale Ref.: C.L.26.2025, dated 8 August 2025, and the Note Verbale enclosed therein of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye No. Z-2025/62441669/40285495, dated 14 July 2025, has the honour to draw the attention of the Director-General to the fact that the correct title of the Montreux Convention regarding the regime of the Straits of the Dardanelles, the Marmara Sea and the Bosphorus is: "The Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits signed at Montreux on July 20th, 1936".

Furthermore, with regard to the reference in the aforementioned Note Verbale of the Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the maritime traffic regulations unilaterally adopted by Türkiye in 2019 - regulations not approved either by the International Maritime Organization or by the parties to the Montreux Convention of 1936, which govern the issue - we would like to remind the Director-General that they are in contravention of the provisions of the International Law of the Sea, the Montreux Convention and the relevant Rules and Recommendations of the International Maritime Organization adopted on 1 June 1994.

Additionally, it should be noted that there is no substantive link between the content of the Turkish statement contained in the said Note Verbale and the new International Health Regulations. In fact, the Turkish statement seeks to elicit tacit acceptance or recognition of the national regulations adopted by Türkiye concerning maritime traffic through the Straits.

Concerning its precise content, the statement points out that, as far as the implementation of the International Health Regulations for maritime traffic in the Straits is concerned, this should be done in accordance with the provisions of the Montreux Convention of 1936 regarding the regime of the Straits. It is, however, self-evident that the Health Regulations do not influence the existing international regime of navigation through the Straits, nor could they do so, as there is no connection of substance between them.

Additionally, the Turkish Regulations concerning traffic in the Straits are themselves not in conformity with:

- The 1936 Montreux Convention: it enshrines full freedom of navigation (articles 1 and 2) through the Straits without any restrictions whatsoever (apart from sanitary control) and without any formalities,

irrespective of the kind of cargo or the timing of the transit. Thus, the Turkish Regulations, by, amongst other things, imposing a compulsory reporting system (Reg. 7) and, particularly, by providing for the possibility of the total suspension of traffic (Reg. 21), are incompatible with the Montreux Convention.

- The IMO Rules and Regulations: Paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 foresee that only in the case where a vessel is unable to comply with the Traffic Separation Scheme do the Turkish Authorities have the right to temporarily suspend two-way traffic and to regulate the resulting one-way traffic. The IMO Rules and Regulations on no account foresee a total suspension of traffic in the Straits. The Turkish Regulations, on the other hand, provide for the possibility to completely suspend traffic in general for a wide variety of reasons.
- The International Law of the Sea regarding navigation through international straits: such law encourages cooperation in order to ensure the safe transit of vessels through the Straits and to protect the environment. The Turkish Regulations, however, were adopted unilaterally in contravention of the Law of the Sea and the relevant Law of Treaties.

Additionally, the Turkish statement contends that the Turkish Maritime Traffic Regulations of 2019 will also be taken into account. This means that the Turkish Authorities will enforce the International Health Regulations subject to certain ill-defined national legislative restraints, which are in fact themselves in contravention of the international obligations Türkiye has undertaken under the Montreux Convention.

Moreover, the Turkish Authorities reserve the right to also take into account any further revision of their national traffic regulations, to be adopted in the same unilateral way in the future. In fact, this would simply seem to mean that, in so far as the Straits are concerned, Türkiye may implement the new International Health Regulations as it sees fit.

The reference, therefore, to national legislation and to any future revisions of this legislation, while irrelevant to the subject at hand, is problematic because it seeks to subject international conventional obligations to national rules and regulations.

In the light of the foregoing, Greece considers the Turkish statement contained in the aforementioned Note Verbale as entirely irrelevant to the International Health Regulations, thus having no legal effect as to their implementation by Türkiye.

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva kindly requests the Director-General to circulate the present Note Verbale to the other Member States of the World Health Organization and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Director-General of the World Health Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 16 September 2025

To: The Director-General of the World Health Organization
e-mail : dgoffice@who.int

In Town



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ministerial Building
Harvey Street
Private Bag 13198, Windhoek

Tel: No: +264 81 403 0019
Fax No:
Email: Helena.hakwenye@mhss.gov.na

Ref: 22/4/2/1
Enq: HL. Hakwenye
Date: 17 July 2025

Dr. Richard Banda
WHO Country Representative
UN House, Klein Windhoek
Windhoek

Dear Dr. Banda,

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF NAMIBIA'S POSITION ON THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005) AMENDMENTS

The Ministry of Health and Social Services wishes to express its appreciation for the efforts of the World Health Organization in strengthening global health security through the recent amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005).

Namibia would like to formally communicate that we have no reservations or objections to the IHR amendments. However, we would like to share some observations arising from our national consultations.

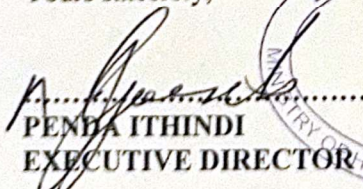
IHR amendments	Comments
Article 15, 2 BIS	Instead of just "access," it should specify "equitable access."
Article 44 bis	Include "Coordinating financial mechanism" in the list of definitions
Core capacities and Annexures	Not all capacities of the one health approach are included.

The comments aim to contribute constructively to the interpretation and implementation of the amendments, particularly concerning equitable access mechanisms and alignment with a One Health approach.

We remain committed to the spirit and objectives of the IHR (2005) and stand ready to collaborate with the WHO and other Member States to ensure effective implementation. Namibia is geared toward the domestication of the amended Regulations.

Please accept, Dr. Banda, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,


PENDA ITHINDI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



All official correspondence must be addressed to the Executive Director.





PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

OMS - 202 /2025

The Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the Director-General of the World Health Organization and, referring to notification C.L.40.2024 by the Director-General of September 19th, 2024, and in accordance with resolution WHA 77.17 (2004), has the honor to inform that Portugal is currently revising its national legislation to integrate, without reservations, the revised International Health Regulations (2005), as adopted in Geneva on June 1st, 2024 (the 2024 amendments), with the objective of ensuring that the necessary legal instruments are in place by September 19th, 2025.

Due to internal parliamentary procedures and timelines, this target date may, however, be subject to revision. Notwithstanding, Portugal remains committed to the full implementation of the revised International Health Regulations and is actively working to align all relevant processes accordingly.

With regard to the designation of the National IHR Authority (NIA), the Directorate-General of Health has been appointed by the Ministry of Health to exercise this function. Portugal maintains the current institutional structure and contact information.

The Permanent Mission of Portugal avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Director-General of the World Health Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 23 July 2025



Office of the Director-General
World Health Organization
E-mail: DGOoffice@who.int; ihradmin@who.int