



147th IPU Assembly – General Debate

Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all level

IPU President,

IPU Secretary-General,

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I am addressing this assembly on behalf of the World Health Organization and by starting to say that the WHO is proud and grateful for the long-standing relationship with the IPU.

Recently the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region has been severely hit by different crises such as the floods in Libya and Syria, the earthquakes in Afghanistan and in Morocco and the hostilities that are causing untold suffering in Israel and the Gaza Strip.

WHO is at the forefront of the response to those humanitarian crises alongside many partners in the humanitarian response. Working closely with the local health authorities, WHO is there to ensure that essential health services, medical supplies and care are delivered to affected people, the functionality of health facilities is restored, and disease surveillance and infectious disease control are reinforced.

Dear Delegates, a month ago, at the 78th United Nations General Assembly, world leaders adopted a political declaration calling for stronger international collaboration and coordination at the highest political levels to better prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics.

The ongoing negotiations on the Pandemic Accord are intrinsically linked to the principles of equity and justice. Such Accord has the potential to serve as a powerful instrument for rectifying existing health inequities and fostering a better prepared world, a more just one, in the face of future pandemics.

WHO -



Promoting health, keeping the world safe and serving the vulnerable require a sustained, consistent and realistic financing of WHO.

This is why, WHO Member States have adopted a landmark decision to improve WHO's financing model. Last year, , a 20% increase of the membership fees called assessed contributions was approved. This first increase, which will take effect in the 2023-2025 budget, is the first one in the series of step-wise increases over the next 8 years, aiming at covering 50% of the base budget or WHO'S core work with assessed contributions, which are a flexible and predictable source of funding. This will allow a more effective and efficient WHO.

We thank you for the support you already provide to WHO, as we work with all governments for the health of all citizens. As Parliamentarians, you have the power to hold your governments to account to fulfill their commitments toward the WHO and allocate the respective budgets. We count on your continued support.

Let me conclude by inviting you all to two events jointly organized with the IPU on 26 October. A workshop on the Pandemic Accord from 0930am to 11am and a side event on WHO's upcoming strategy and its financing from 1:30 to 3:00pm.

Let's work towards a healthier and brighter future together.

Thank you for your attention.

(453 words)

Reference:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/10-10-2023-who-calls-for-access-to-health-and-humanitarian-assistance-on-fourth-day-of-conflict-in-israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territory>

<https://www.emro.who.int/lby/floods/index.html>