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Global health and foreign policy

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[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/75/L.18](#) and [A/75/L.18/Add.1](#))]

75/27. International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Expressing grave concern at the devastating impacts of major infectious diseases and epidemics, as exemplified by the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, on human lives, wreaking havoc on long-term social and economic development, and that global health crises threaten to overwhelm already overstretched health systems, disrupt global supply chains and cause disproportionate devastation of the livelihoods of people, including women and children, and the economies of the poorest and most vulnerable countries,



Underlining the urgency of having resilient and robust health systems, reaching those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, and capable of effectively implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),¹

Expressing deep concern that, with the absence of international attention, future epidemics could surpass previous outbreaks in terms of intensity and gravity, and therefore emphasizing the utmost importance of awareness-raising, the exchange of information, scientific knowledge and best practices, quality education, and advocacy programmes on epidemics at the local, national, regional and global levels as effective measures to prevent and respond to epidemics,

Recognizing the need to strengthen epidemic prevention by applying lessons learned on epidemic management and how to prevent the stoppage of basic services, and to raise the level of preparedness in order to have the earliest and most adequate response to any epidemic that may arise, and recognizing also the value of an integrated One Health approach that fosters cooperation between the human health, animal health and plant health, as well as environmental and other relevant sectors,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation and multilateralism in response to epidemics, and acknowledging the significance of partnership and solidarity among every individual, community and State, and regional and international organizations, in all stages of epidemic management, as well as the importance of considering a gender perspective in this regard,

Recognizing the pivotal role of the United Nations system, in particular the World Health Organization, in coordinating responses to epidemics, in accordance with its mandate, and supporting national, regional and international efforts to prevent, mitigate and address the impacts of infectious diseases and epidemics in accordance with the goal of advancing the 2030 Agenda,

Acknowledging the primary role and responsibility of Governments and the indispensable contribution of relevant stakeholders in tackling global health challenges, especially women, who make up the majority of the world's health workers, and underscoring the commitment to ensure inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory participation, with special attention to those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations with the highest chance of epidemic infection,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 27 December as the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other global, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, individuals and other relevant stakeholders to observe the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness annually in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national contexts and priorities, through education and awareness-raising activities, in order to highlight the importance of the prevention of, preparedness for and partnership against epidemics;

3. *Invites* the World Health Organization to facilitate the observance of the International Day, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67;

4. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.

36th plenary meeting
7 December 2020

¹ World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.