Grouping 2.2

16.2 Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

16.4 Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

Statement:

Amending the IHR requires inputs from MS/diverse experts. We are concerned that the US proposal on IHR amendments undermine the deliberations of the WGPR, and that the amendments may undermine countries' sovereignty.

The proposal ignores human resources, infrastructure, and coordination challenges in many countries. Amendments must take note of and seek to respond to such challenges. The narrow timeframes demanded will unlikely be met.

The draft resolution on certain IHR amendment proposals shows exercise of power rather than adequate reflection of public health concern. This compromises multilateral spirit and coordination.

Communities, especially front-line workers, should be consulted in the IHR amendments and implementation processes. Community engagement should be included as a core capacity in health emergency preparedness and response in the IHR.