SIXTH MEETING

STRENGTHENING HEALTH SECURITY AND BUILDING RESILIENCE: LEARNING AND IMPROVING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
NOTE: The views expressed in this report are those of the participants of the Sixth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the conveners.

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific for Member States in the Region and for those who participated in the Sixth Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health in Seoul, the Republic of Korea from 24 to 25 August 2022.
World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Western Pacific

Meeting Report

Sixth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health

Strengthening Health Security and Building Resilience: Learning and Improving from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Hosted by:
Health and Welfare Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

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STRENGTHENING HEALTH SECURITY AND BUILDING RESILIENCE: LEARNING AND IMPROVING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
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The Sixth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health (the Forum) was convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 24 to 25 August 2022.

The meeting was chaired by Honourable Chounsook Jung, Chairperson of the Health and Welfare Committee, National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, and the Honourable Minseok Kim, President of the Korean Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, with support from the Korean Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific. The meeting aimed to enhance the role of parliamentarians in strengthening health security and building resilient health systems, and was attended by 30 parliamentarians from 15 countries.

Parliamentarians received an update on the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) situation globally and in the Region, and how the Region has benefited from over 16 years of investment in health security systems through the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED). Parliamentarians shared their country’s experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, lessons that could be drawn, and parliamentary actions taken to strengthen health security systems. Several parliaments supported actions to increase investment in health to advance health priorities and aid social and economic recovery, reflecting the interdependency between health and the economy.

As the Asia-Pacific region faces health security threats from multiple sources, parliamentarians discussed how to leverage the response to COVID-19 to invest in resilient health systems and advance health security and universal health coverage as complementary goals. For many countries, the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of a resilient primary health-care system capable of delivering essential health services to the community and supporting essential public health functions during shocks and crises. It also highlighted the need to increase investment in human resources for health and core public health functions, and improve public financial management for health.
A feature of the COVID-19 response in many countries has been a willingness to harness innovation to enhance response measures and address challenges. Parliamentarians noted that the increased demands and unique challenges the pandemic presented across society stimulated increased cooperation and unlocked barriers to innovation in areas such as information sharing and data integration. Parliamentarians acknowledged that countries in the Region are at very different stages, but that innovation is a key component of health system resilience and there is a need to invest in necessary capacity, including telecommunications infrastructure.

Parliamentarians discussed potential opportunities and directions for leveraging their political capacity and leadership to strengthen resilience for the future. Many reported that there are favourable conditions for reform and increased investments in health. Specific opportunities shared included securing sustainable financing for health, embedding and institutionalizing strengthened partnerships with the community and other sectors, and supporting investments in other sectors that contribute to the social determinants of health. Parliamentarians also discussed opportunities to enhance regional cooperation and solidarity, including through the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health.

Field visits showcased institutions and capacities for pandemic preparedness and response and health innovation in the Republic of Korea. Parliamentarians had the opportunity to learn about key national public health institutions, including the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, and witness innovation put into practice at leading hospitals and government agencies as well as by local start-ups.

Parliamentarians adopted the Seoul Communique, urging their fellow parliamentarians to advocate for pandemic preparedness and health system resilience as an investment in political, economic and social well-being; support sustainable financing for pandemic preparedness and system interventions such as legislative reforms; and seek individual and collective opportunities to demonstrate regional leadership. Parliamentarians also requested WHO to continue to provide guidance and technical assistance to Member States to address pandemic preparedness and health security, develop useful knowledge products for parliamentarians to leverage their functions, and strengthen engagements with parliamentarians, including through the Forum.
The Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health (the Forum) is a platform for parliamentarians to exchange ideas, build political will, strengthen capacities and foster collaboration in driving sustainable action for health. Parliamentarians – through their core functions of law-making, scrutinizing and authorizing budgets, providing government oversight, and representing constituencies – play an essential role in influencing global health and advancing domestic and regional health priorities in line with international commitments.
Established in 2015 with technical support from the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific and other partners, the Forum is open to the 30 countries comprising the Member States of the WHO Western Pacific Region and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Forum is a core part of WHO’s strategy to engage political leaders and work beyond the health sector to advance health under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with the Western Pacific Region’s For the Future vision.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had wide-ranging health and socioeconomic impacts on all parts of society, with vulnerable populations most affected. Beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, the Asia-Pacific region will continue to face health security risks from emerging diseases and public health emergencies, exacerbated by increasing weather events and other impacts associated with climate change. This underscores the urgent need to build strong and resilient health systems in tandem with essential public health functions to support health and well-being and provide a foundation for sustainable development.

1.1 MEETING ORGANIZATION

The Sixth Meeting of the Forum was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 24 to 25 August 2022. Parliamentarians came together to discuss ways to learn and improve from the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen health security and build health system resilience. The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea hosted the meeting with support from the Korean Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health and the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific. The meeting was held at the Conrad Seoul and applied risk-based public health measures to allow representatives to travel safely and attend in person or participate virtually.

The meeting was attended by 30 parliamentarians from 15 countries, including the Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Philippines, Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

1.2 MEETING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the meeting were:

(1) to share information and experiences on managing, learning and improving during the COVID-19 pandemic, including parliamentary actions taken and strategies for future scenarios;

(2) to discuss how parliamentarians can support actions to strengthen health security and build resilient health systems, drawing on the lessons identified from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(3) to consider opportunities for parliamentarians to promote partnerships at the global, regional and national levels and beyond the health sector to build systems and capacities for health security.
2. PROCEEDINGS

The Forum was jointly opened by the Chair, the Honourable Chounsook Jung, Chairperson of the Health and Welfare Committee, National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, and the Honourable Minseok Kim, President of the Forum. Their remarks noted the toll that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacted on the Region and the need to learn its lessons to build resilient health systems that are prepared for emergencies and able to meet other health priorities. They addressed the importance of strengthening coordination between parliaments and building political will to advance health security. Acknowledging the political dynamics involved, participants were asked to share ideas and learn from one another in using their collective and individual leadership to influence change.

2.1 OPENING CEREMONY
 Honourable Jinpyo Kim, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, and the Honourable Ki-II Lee, Second Vice-Minister for Health and Welfare, welcomed participants to Seoul, noting that it was the site of the first meeting of the Forum, convened at the initiative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. Participants were invited to observe and experience institutions and practices that support pandemic preparedness and response and health innovation in the Republic of Korea.

Dr Kidong Park, Director of Data, Strategy and Innovation at the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific delivered congratulatory remarks on behalf of Dr Takeshi Kasai, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific. His remarks emphasized the need to continue to “learn and improve” and build on the investments made through the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED), which reduced the magnitude of the impact of the pandemic in the Region. Participants were asked to lend their leadership and support to pursuing universal health coverage (UHC) and health security as complementary goals and investments that can accelerate social and economic growth.

Dr Genevieve Howse, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, introduced and circulated a draft outcome statement for the meeting – the Seoul Communique – for consideration of participants over the course of the meeting.

2.2 SESSION 1: STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS FOR THE FUTURE: LEARNING AND IMPROVING FROM COVID-19

2.2.1 Technical introduction

Dr Sangjun Moon, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, provided an introductory presentation on the COVID-19 situation globally and in the Region, and the “learn and improve” approach established by APSED. He described how the COVID-19 situation had evolved over time and how the Western Pacific Region had performed relatively well, owing to a range of factors, including the decision of most countries to gradually lift public health and social measures over time. Learning and improving was crucial, as countries refined their response strategies in response to evolving knowledge and evidence.

2.2.2 Parliamentary panel and plenary discussion

Parliamentarians shared their country’s experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, the lessons that could be drawn, and the parliamentary actions taken to strengthen health security systems. Experiences across the Region varied due to social, economic and political factors as well as the evolution of the pandemic, with some countries experiencing early widespread community transmission and others able to delay it. Parliaments in all countries continue to perform a critical role, which has shifted as the pandemic has progressed.

Many enacted rapid legislative changes to support public health response measures and secure resources for COVID-19-related services and other essential health services as well as to provide social and economic support to individuals and families. Several countries found that their existing legal frameworks were not sufficient to support their response strategies, which brought forward needed reforms and has stimulated parliamentary
support for broader reforms to health-related laws. States of emergency were declared in some countries to provide a legal basis for the response, with parliaments having a role in providing oversight.

Parliamentarians have faced difficult decisions in balancing competing demands, particularly in relation to social and economic disruption. The pandemic experience has highlighted the interdependency between health and the economy: a strong health system is dependent on a strong economy, and a strong economy is dependent on a strong health system. Parliamentarians will continue to be key to supporting social and economic recovery and resumption of progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Coordination and information sharing across government and society, including between parliament and the executive, has been integral. Several parliaments held regular briefings with government agencies leading the COVID-19 response. In some countries, the pandemic revealed gaps in health information systems that impeded targeted response measures such as protecting vulnerable persons and those with comorbidities. Coordination mechanisms, such as national task forces, were often led by senior elected officials, including heads of government.

Parliamentarians highlighted the need to ensure the lessons of the pandemic are learned and not forgotten. Many are considering significant investments in health security systems, some of which began during the pandemic response, including legislative reform, new or expanded public health institutions, and building system resilience to mitigate the impact of future emergencies on essential services.

### 2.3 SESSION 2: STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS FOR THE FUTURE: INVESTING IN RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

#### 2.3.1 Technical introduction

Dr Sangjun Moon, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, provided a technical introduction on global, regional and national actions to invest in resilient health systems. ASPED, which was developed as a strategic framework for countries in the Asia-Pacific to strengthen core public health capacities and to implement the International Health Regulations (2005), served the Region well after incorporating lessons from responses to health emergencies such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), H1N1, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), Ebola and others. To incorporate lessons from COVID-19, WHO is developing a new biregional health security framework that builds on the APSED approach with UHC as the foundation. Support will be needed from political leaders, including to secure sustainable, substantial and predictable financing.

Professor Vernon Lee, National University of Singapore and Singapore Ministry of Health, presented on building resilient health systems, drawing on Singapore’s experience. Building system resilience requires not only deliberate action over an extended period of time, but also agility and the ability to respond to new and emerging threats. He noted that it is not possible to develop tailored strategies for every threat. Professor Lee described key building blocks that can be improved and assembled for response strategies based on need: national preparedness frameworks and measures, rapid identification and management, health
systems, public communication, community measures and international measures. He described how these building blocks were flexibly adapted at different points of Singapore’s response as the pandemic evolved, informed by evidence and intelligence gathered from public health surveillance and other sources.

### 2.3.2 Parliamentarian panel and plenary discussion

Parliamentarians discussed experiences and opportunities to leverage the response to COVID-19 to build health system resilience and advance health security and UHC as complementary goals. The COVID-19 pandemic accentuated weak points in health systems and highlighted underlying health challenges, such as population ageing, rising rates of noncommunicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases. Many health systems were not able to sustain essential health services, such as routine immunization programmes, which threatens to have a lasting impact on the health-related SDGs. Some countries also faced multiple emergencies, such as natural disasters, that imposed an additional burden and impacted response efforts, including the ability to mobilize external support.

These experiences emphasized the importance of having a resilient primary health-care system capable of delivering essential health services to the community during shocks and able to support essential public health functions, including disease prevention and provision of accurate and trusted health information. This will require partnerships beyond health and with communities, which have served as a source of resilience in many countries. Several parliamentarians reported actions to increase investment in primary health-care facilities and personnel, including as part of social and economic recovery.

Other priority actions identified by parliamentarians included expanding and strengthening the management of human resources for health through incentives and other investments, supporting investments in key public health capabilities such as laboratories, and improving public financial management for health. Many countries benefited from the support of donors and other partners within the Region and globally. Several parliamentarians highlighted the importance and potential of regional cooperation to improve capacities in the Asia-Pacific and ensure no country is left behind.

### 2.4 SESSION 3: STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS FOR THE FUTURE: Harnessing Innovation

#### 2.4.1 Technical introduction

Dr Gauden Galea, WHO Representative to China, presented on the potential of health innovation to transform health and opportunities for parliamentarians to support. Four key roles for parliamentarians include: defining society’s values and placing health at the centre; financing innovation and ensuring a return on investment for the public; defining the metrics of success grounded in improved health and well-being; and creating an entrepreneurial state which has its own capacity to innovate. Innovation poses dilemmas and challenges that require leadership, including such issues as bias, governance and ownership of data, and side-effects such as the environmental impact of increased computing capacities.
Dr Hoonsang Lee, Chief Strategy Officer of the RIGHT Fund, presented on innovative health financing. The RIGHT Fund applies public–private partnership financing models to utilize funding from government, business and development partners to invest in biomedical capacity of industry and researchers, health systems in low- and middle-income countries, and evidence generation and product development.

Dr Lee noted the importance of evidence generation to support the development and implementation of effective innovations. Parliamentarians were asked to consider their role in supporting innovation pathways, from research through regulatory approval, public procurement and then roll-out, and how to harness public–private partnerships for the common good.

Dr Beverly Lorraine C. Ho, Philippine Department of Health, shared insights from approaches to health innovation in the Philippines. The Philippines introduced several innovative interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic to create a supportive environment for health, including chatbots to address COVID-19 queries, behavioural nudges to support health workers to address stress, and “playbooks” of effective promotive interventions for subnational governments. Approaches that contributed to their effectiveness included having clear objectives and defined beneficiaries, engaging in strategic partnerships to efficiently utilize government resources, and having a strategic framework to guide investments and support sustainable funding.

2.4.2 Parliamentarian panel and plenary discussion

Parliamentarians shared experiences from their countries in harnessing innovation for the COVID-19 pandemic and identified areas that could be supported through parliamentary actions and leadership. The increased demands and broad impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic stimulated innovation in health and other sectors. It demonstrated that capacity for innovation is a key determinant of effective preparedness and response, and a critical facet of health system resilience.

Most countries leveraged digital platforms to support risk communication and provide timely, accurate information to the public from experts and leaders, including parliamentarians. This enabled leaders to communicate directly with the whole of society and contributed to efforts to engage communities, civil society and the private sector in support of public health functions. Communications platforms were also increasingly used in support of telemedicine services to sustain essential health services, including enabling overseas medical specialists to remotely support care in certain Pacific island countries and areas while overseas medical referrals were not feasible due to travel restrictions.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to increased cooperation, particularly in the area of information sharing and data integration. In some countries, data sets that had previously been managed in silos across health and in different sectors were linked and integrated in response to the imperatives of the pandemic. This supported evidence-based decision-making and enabled the use of digital tools such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to augment data analysis and generate evidence for targeted, risk-based response measures. Legislative actions taken by parliamentarians supported the establishment of integrated data registries and their governance and data protection frameworks.
Parliamentarians acknowledged that countries in the Region are at different stages of building their capacities for health innovation and can make different contributions as part of regional cooperation. Some countries require significant investment in basic infrastructure, including telecommunications networks, to enable them to reap the benefits of digital innovations. Innovative financing approaches – including public–private partnerships and multilateral mechanisms – may have a role in securing needed investment to support health innovation and essential public health functions such as vaccine development, manufacturing and access. Parliamentarians will have a key role in ensuring the benefits of health innovation are shared and contribute to health for all, including managing issues associated with patents and intellectual property.

2.5 SESSION 4: STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS FOR THE FUTURE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS TO SUPPORT HEALTH SYSTEM RESILIENCE

2.5.1 Technical introduction

Dr Romina Stelter, WHO, updated participants on progress towards the new pandemic accord. Member States have established several workstreams to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response, including an Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) responsible for drafting and negotiating a convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response; and a working group to consider proposed targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005). The INB process is designed to be inclusive and is open to all Member States; it will involve public hearings, the first round of which took place in April 2022. The workstreams are expected to generate outcomes for consideration at the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in May 2024.

Dr Nicola Nixon, The Asia Foundation, presented on opportunities for leadership and reform in the post-COVID-19 political landscape. Political economy analysis can provide a practical framework to unpack the interaction of political and economic processes in a society, and the distribution of power and wealth between different groups and individuals, to inform and help identify potential pathways to reform. The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the political economy, including the political priority given to health and the influence of the health sector, which may open new pathways and opportunities for parliamentarians to use their political capital for leverage.

2.5.2 Parliamentarian experience sharing and discussion

Parliamentarians shared experiences in utilizing their functions to support health system resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic and discussed potential opportunities and directions for leveraging their political capital and leadership to strengthen resilience for the future. Decisive and principled leadership was required to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and to make decisions in the interest of public health that could be politically difficult. Maintaining broad public support and trust in the response was critical, and parliamentarians made vital contributions in advocating and communicating with communities and in modelling behaviour. As an example, parliamentarians in many countries were among
the first to receive COVID-19 vaccines – an important measure to demonstrate their safety and encourage voluntary uptake. Some saw opportunities to embed and institutionalize mechanisms used during the pandemic to engage communities and the whole of society.

Many parliamentarians felt that the opportunities for reform and investment in health had increased through the COVID-19 pandemic, with the health sector experiencing greater trust and political standing, and stronger recognition of the importance of health and its centrality to social and economic development. This may present opportunities to secure sustainable financing for health, advance health equity, shape public support for health as a priority, and develop new partnerships, including at the regional and global level. There are also opportunities for the health sector to leverage its political capital to support reforms beyond the health sector that contribute to the social determinants of health, such as investments in essential infrastructure. Parliamentarians will play a key role in ensuring that actions are tailored and appropriate to their national context.

While there has been significant cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region during the COVID-19 pandemic, parliamentarians saw opportunities for more effective regional cooperation and solidarity for the future. Other regions, including Europe and Africa, may offer examples of effective regional cooperation from which the Asia-Pacific can draw to advance regional strategies such as APSED. The Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health is an important mechanism for regional cooperation, and it was suggested that it could perform a greater role, including as a platform for diplomatic exchange, a source of advocacy and political support, and a means to monitor and support implementation of international and regional commitments.

2.6 SIDE-EVENT: REGIONAL LAUNCH OF THE IPU AND WHO HANDBOOK ON STRENGTHENING HEALTH SECURITY PREPAREDNESS

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, and Dr Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), launched the joint WHO and IPU handbook, Strengthening Health Security Preparedness: The International Health Regulations (2005). The handbook describes the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in strengthening emergency preparedness and health security, and provides practical suggestions, actionable recommendations and further resources.
Participants were given the opportunity to participate in one of two field visit programmes to experience and learn about pandemic preparedness and response and health innovation in the Republic of Korea.

### 2.7.1 Field visit track 1 – Pandemic preparedness and response

Track 1 allowed participants to learn about the Republic of Korea’s pandemic response system and policies, and explore sites supporting research and development in the bio-health field for pandemic preparedness.

Kyong Ran Peck, Commissioner of the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), welcomed participants to the KDCA, a central institution for national public health and scientific, evidence-based health-care research and development, which served as a control tower during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure effective disease control at all levels. Participants had the opportunity to learn about how the KDCA was established and its organization and functions.

Participants were then taken on a tour of the National Biobank of Korea, a national hub that houses human biologic specimens and aims to support the efficient collection, storage and use of human bioresources in the country. Parliamentarians also had the opportunity to enter and view the KDCA Emergency Operations Centre.
After a traditional Korean lunch, participants visited the Osong Medical Innovation Foundation, or KBIO Health – a public institution established in collaboration between the Korean Ministries of Health and Welfare; Science and ICT; and Trade, Industry and Energy. KBIO Health hosts several institutions and facilities that support the research, development, testing and commercialization of new biological drugs and biotechnology-based advanced medical devices. Participants were given a tour of centres for medical device development, non-clinical research and development, drug development, and human resource development.

2.7.2 Field visit track 2 – Health innovation

Track 2 allowed participants to learn how innovative technologies are being used to provide better health care, particularly in the acquisition, processing and study of health-care data.

Participants visited Seoul National University Bundang Hospital (SNU BH), a leading hospital in applying digital health-care technologies, and at which many government-led digital health care initiatives are piloted. The Ministry of Health and Welfare’s Medical Information Policy Division gave a short presentation on the Republic of Korea’s digital health care policies and directions. The Korean Health Information Service – a government agency under the Ministry of Health and Welfare specializing in health-care informatization – then presented on its initiatives, including the National Hospital Informatization Project. Participants were able to experience how those initiatives were being implemented at SNU BH, particularly how smart hospital systems – such as real-time ward monitoring and patient management systems – played a role during the COVID-19 pandemic.
After a traditional Korean lunch, participants visited the Korea Social Security Information Service (SSIS), an institution responsible for the overall management and coordination of various social security data sets in the Republic of Korea, including data from public health centres. Participants learned about how health and welfare information was utilized in support of the COVID-19 response, including to identify households for targeted health and welfare support.

Participants then returned to the meeting venue and viewed demonstrations from four leading Korean start-ups in the health-care industry. Innovations included the use of homomorphic encryption to develop a privacy-preserving contact tracing app; a digital platform for one-stop health management from pre-diagnosis through to telehealth consultation and then personalized recommendations; the use of artificial intelligence to augment computed tomography scanning and analysis; and analytical services for medical research.

2.8.1 Presentation of Seoul Communique

Honourable Minseok Kim, President of the Forum, presented the final version of the draft outcome statement, the Seoul Communique, for review. The draft statement was updated with changes and feedback received from participants during the meeting. Participants unanimously endorsed the Seoul Communique as presented.

2.8.2 Closing

Honourable Chinburen Jigjidsuren, Member of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia, formally invited members to the Seventh Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2023.

The Forum was closed with formal remarks from Dr Kidong Park, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, and Honourable Minseok Kim, President of the Forum, and a round of farewells from parliamentarians.
3. CONCLUSIONS

The parliamentarians attending the Forum adopted the following conclusions in the Seoul Communique:

1. welcomed the opportunity to meet in person to discuss their roles as parliamentarians and their individual and collective contributions to strengthening health security and building health system resilience;
2. recognized the power of dialogue and strength of solidarity;
3. encouraged innovation and ideas, recognizing the importance of science and science-based policy and programming for health systems;
4. understood that the countries they serve have all been affected by COVID-19 and are seeking to end the public health emergency associated with COVID-19;
5. acknowledged the need to build resilient health systems and preparedness for future health emergencies;
6. recognized that UHC and health security are complementary goals, and that a strong primary health-care approach is critical not only to achieving UHC but also to strengthening pandemic preparedness and resilient health systems;
7. recognized that at-risk communities and marginalized groups, including poor people, women and children, persons with disability, older people, migrants and refugees, are most severely affected by lack of pandemic preparedness and weak health systems;
8. recognized the burden of a protracted pandemic on health-care workers;
9. understood that the consequences of lack of pandemic preparedness and weak health systems can include shocks to economic growth and reversals in development progress;
10. recognized that preparedness and health system resilience are investments in the development of the countries they serve and in the Region;
11. emphasized the need for partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels to build systems and capacities that involve the whole of government and whole of society;
12. expressed appreciation to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, with support from the Ministry of Health and Welfare, for hosting the Sixth Meeting and demonstrating national and regional leadership in pandemic preparedness, health system resilience and innovation in advancing health system priorities; and
13. acknowledged the technical leadership of WHO in making pandemic preparedness and health system resilience one of the top priorities for health and well-being in the Asia-Pacific region.

3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.2.1 Recommendations for fellow parliamentarians

The parliamentarians attending the meeting urged their fellow parliamentarians to consider the following:

1. Advocate for the inclusion of pandemic preparedness and health system resilience in all relevant portfolios, policies and projects as an investment in our political, economic and social well-being.
2. Embrace and encourage innovation, including the use of digital technologies to enhance health service provision and equitable access to health care.
3. Promote system interventions such as stronger legal frameworks to enhance legal preparedness across sectors and ensure availability of necessary functions and powers, and alignment of response.
4. Seek opportunities individually or collectively to advance the aim of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health to demonstrate regional leadership in advocating for pandemic preparedness and health system resilience.
5. Be active in supporting sufficient national appropriations and sustainable financing for pandemic preparedness and health system resilience.
6. Represent the interests of constituencies to ensure that the needs of all are met and to ensure inclusive participation, especially of groups like women and children, in pandemic preparedness and response and progress towards health system resilience.

7. Engage in international partnerships, platforms and coalitions, including the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, to share experiences between countries and strengthen international cooperation for pandemic preparedness, health system resilience and innovation.

3.2.2 Recommendations for WHO

The parliamentarians attending the meeting requested the Forum Secretariat and the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific to consider the following:

1. Provide guidance and technical assistance to countries, as needed and requested, in their efforts to address the need for pandemic preparedness and health security.

2. Develop knowledge products useful to parliamentarians in leveraging their function to provide national and regional leadership in pandemic preparedness and health system resilience, and in other functions, such as making the case for health as a smart investment.

3. Continue to strengthen engagement with parliaments, including through the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, to support enhancement of the role of parliamentarians in supporting pandemic preparedness and health system resilience.
ANNEXES
ANNEX 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CAMBODIA

**Her Excellency Lork Kheng**
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Honourable Professor Keizo Takemi
Former President of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Universal Health Coverage
Senior Advisor of Japan Parliamentarian League for the WHO
Member – House of Councillors, National Diet of Japan
Tokyo

KIRIBATI

Honourable Tarakabu Tofinga
Minister of Justice
Member – House of Assembly of Kiribati (Maneaba ni Maungatabu)
Ambo Tarawa

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Special Guest
Honourable Jinpyo Kim
Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Seoul

Chair of the Sixth Meeting
Honourable Dr Chounsook Jung
Chair of the Health and Welfare Committee
Member – National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Seoul
President of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health

**Honourable Minseok Kim**
Member – Health and Welfare Committee  
Member – Special Committee on National Pension Reform  
Member – National Assembly of the Republic of Korea  
Seoul

**Honourable Younsuk Choi**
Member – Health and Welfare Committee  
Member – National Assembly of the Republic of Korea  
Seoul

**Honourable Dr Sunwoo Kang**
Member – Health and Welfare Committee  
Member – National Assembly of the Republic of Korea  
Seoul

**Honourable Dr Hyunyoung Shin**
Member – Health and Welfare Committee  
Member – National Assembly of the Republic of Korea  
Seoul

**Honourable Dr Jungsook Suh**
Member – Health and Welfare Committee  
Member – Special Committee on Budget and Accounts  
Member – National Assembly of the Republic of Korea  
Seoul
LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Honourable Bounelome Kebouahome
Vice-Chair of the Social and Cultural Committee
Member – National Assembly of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Vientiane

Honourable Professor Mayfong Mayxay
Member – Social and Cultural Committee
Member – National Assembly of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Vientiane

MALAYSIA

Honourable Dr Dzulkefly Bin Ahmad
Member – Parliament of Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur

MONGOLIA

Honourable Dr Chinburen Jigjidsuren
Member – Standing Committee on Social Policy The State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia
Ulaanbaatar
PALAU

Honourable Stevenson Kuartei
Chair of the Health & Social Welfare Committee
Senator – Palau National Congress
Koror

PHILIPPINES

Honourable Pilar Juliana (Pia S.) Cayetano
Chair of the Senate Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking
Senator – Senate of the Philippines
Manilla

SAMOA

Honourable Laumatiamanu Mathew Ringo Purcell
Chair of the Social Development Committee
Member – Legislative Assembly of Samoa
Apia

Honourable Fuaava Suluimalo Amataga Penaia
Member – Legislative Assembly of Samoa
Apia
SOLOMON ISLANDS

Honourable Dr Culwick Togamana
Minister of Health & Medical Services
Member – National Parliament of Solomon Islands
Honiara

Honourable Peter Jr Kenilorea
Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee
Member – National Parliament of Solomon Islands
Honiara

TONGA

Honourable Dr Saia Ma’u Piukala
Minister of Health
Member – Legislative Assembly of Tonga
Nuku’alofa

Honourable Lord Tu’ivakano
Chair of the Climate Change and Environment Committee Noble Representative – Legislative Assembly of Tonga
Nuku’alofa
TUVALU

Honourable Isaia Vaipuna Taape
Minister of Health
Member – Parliament of Tuvalu (Palamene o Tuvalu)
Funafuti

Honourable Puakena Boreham
Member – Parliament of Tuvalu (Palamene o Tuvalu)
Funafuti

VIETNAM

Honourable Dr Kham Le Van
Member of the Committee for Social Affairs
Member – National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Hanoi

Honourable Dr Thi Thu Dung Nguyen
Member of the Committee for Social Affairs
Member – National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Hanoi
TEMPORARY ADVISERS

Prof Vernon Lee
Senior Director – Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Health, Singapore
Singapore

Dr Nicola Nixon
Director of Governance
The Asia Foundation
Hanoi

PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT STAFF

Dr Seemoon Choi, Korean Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Dr Youngeun Choi, Korean Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Ms Hyewon Jung, Korean Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Ms Hyejung Lee, Korean Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Dr Gregory Jilini, Undersecretary of Health Care, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Honiara, Solomon Islands
Mr Duy To Khuong, Department for Social Affairs, Hanoi, Viet Nam
Mr Abele Sakulu, Parliament, Suva, Fiji
Ms Zheanne Aeson Dantis, Senate, Manila, Philippines
Ms Ayessa Baldivia, Senate, Manila, Philippines
Mr Demberel Bold, State Great Hural (Parliament), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Ms Khongorzul Tsagaanbaatar, State Great Hural (Parliament), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Ms Kakiata Tikataake, House of Assembly, Ambo Tarawa, Kiribati
Ms Sok Leakhena, Senate, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Ms Nhim Dalin, National Assembly, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
OBSERVERS/REPRESENTATIVES OF AGENCIES

Dr Ganendra Kristandya, Global TB Caucus
Mr Taniela Sunia Soakai, The Pacific Community (SPC)
Mr Tae Kyung Byun, International Vaccine Institute
Dr Sang-Baek Chris Kang, National Health Insurance Service, Republic of Korea
Ms Yujin Jeong, Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency
Ms Grace Eunjeong Park, Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency
Dr Soon Ae Kim, Global Development Cooperation Center, Korea Foundation for International Health Care
Ms Chae Eun Kim, Global Development Cooperation Center Korea Foundation for International Health Care
Ms Kyu Min Eom, Korean National Tuberculosis Association
Ms Hye Jung Han, Korean National Tuberculosis Association Ms Yoon Sun Heo, Korean National Tuberculosis Association
Ms Jiyeon Yoo, Korean National Tuberculosis Association
Mr Kanghee Kim, Korean National Tuberculosis Association
Ms Barbara Wibmer, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society
Mr Agastya Bharadwaj, Australian Department of Health and Aged Care

SECRETARIAT

Dr Takeshi Kasai, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
Dr Kidong Park, Director of Data, Strategy and Innovation, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
Dr Babatunde Olowokure, Director of Health Emergency Programme and Division of Health Security and Emergencies, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
Dr Oxana Domenti, WHO Representative to the EU, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Brussels, Belgium
Dr Akeem Ali, Head of Office, WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Dr Genevieve Howse, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
Ms Caroline Bollars, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark
Ms Jimyung Shin, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
Dr Sangjun Moon, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
Mr Ben Lilley, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
Dr Altanzagas Badrakh, WHO Country Office, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Ms Nadine Agleron, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
Mr Youngchan Kim, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
Mr Luke Elich, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
Ms Kareena Hundal, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
### Day 1 Wednesday, 24 August 2022
Grand Ballroom (3rd Floor), Conrad Seoul

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0815-0915</td>
<td><strong>Opening Ceremony</strong>&lt;br&gt;Master of Ceremony: Dr Genevieve HOWSE, Coordinator Health Law And Ethics, Division of Health Systems and Services, WPRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Opening Remarks&lt;br&gt;Hon Dr Chounsook JUNG, Chairperson of the Health and Welfare Committee, National Assembly, Republic of Korea; President of the Korean Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health; Chair of the 6th APPFGH meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Opening Remarks&lt;br&gt;Hon Minseok KIM, President of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health; Member, Health and Welfare Committee, National Assembly, Republic of Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks&lt;br&gt;Hon Jinpyo KIM, Speaker of the National Assembly, Republic of Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks&lt;br&gt;Hon Ki-il LEE, 2nd Vice-Minister of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Congratulatory Remarks&lt;br&gt;Dr Kidong PARK, Director of Data Strategy and Innovation, WPRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Group Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15min</td>
<td>Self-introduction&lt;br&gt;By all Members of Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td>Programme Overview&lt;br&gt;Dr Genevieve HOWSE, Coordinator, Health Law and Ethics, Division of Health Systems and Services, WPRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0915-0930</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More than two years since the first SARS-CoV-2 infections were reported, the COVID-19 pandemic remains an acute global emergency. It has had wide-ranging health, social and political impacts across the region, disrupted hard-won development gains and greatly impacted the most vulnerable populations. The emergence and rapid spread of several Variants of Concern (VOC), such as Omicron, have served to accelerate transmission of the virus worldwide. Future pandemics are inevitable and are likely to occur with more frequency as a result of a number of factors including our rapidly changing environment and increasingly interconnected region. Now is an opportune time to learn from the way in which different countries have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and build on their successful approaches to strengthen future pandemic preparedness and response in the region. There are a number of lessons that can be drawn from the COVID-19 pandemic from which countries can learn and improve, strengthen health security systems at national and sub-national level and be better prepared and ready to respond to future waves of the current pandemic, and future pandemics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 0930-1045 | **Session 1 - Strengthening Preparedness for the Future:**  
Learning and Improving from COVID-19 |

**Moderator:**  
Dr Kidong PARK  
Director of Data Strategy and Innovation, WPRO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15min</td>
<td>Overview Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Sangjun Moon, Medical Officer, Health Emergency Program, Division of Health Security and Emergencies, WPRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Parliamentary Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Dr Culwick Togamana, Minister of Health &amp; Medical Services, Solomon Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Parliamentary Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Bounelome KEOUHAHOME, Vice-Chairman of Social and Cultural Committee, National Assembly of Lao PDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Parliamentary Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Dr Chinburen JIGJIDSUREN, Member of Parliament, The State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Parliamentary Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Pia S. CAYETANO, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20min</td>
<td>Plenary Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1045-1115</td>
<td>Morning Tea + Mobility Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COVID-19 has shown that the status quo does not protect our communities, our societies and our economies. Long-term, sustained investment is needed to build preparedness and response capacities at national, subnational, and local levels, as well as regionally and globally, to address weaknesses that were exposed and prepare for future emergencies. The Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies, which serves as the bi-regional action framework for health security and implementing the International Health Regulations (2005), highlights the need for political commitment to drive improvement in eight focus areas. One of the central lessons learned during the pandemic is the importance of system readiness and the need to build resilient health systems for future shocks. Commitment to resuming progress and recovering lost ground towards Universal Health Coverage, with a focus on Primary Health Care, as a foundation for strengthening health security will be key. There is a unique opportunity to leverage the current response to make strengthening both emergency preparedness and health systems as complementary goals a political priority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1115-1230</td>
<td>Session 2 - Strengthening Preparedness for the Future: Investing in Resilient Health Systems</td>
<td>Moderator: Dr Akeem ALI Head of Office, WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Panel Type</th>
<th>Presentationist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td>Overview Presentation</td>
<td>Dr Sangjun Moon, Medical Officer, Health Emergency Program, Division of Health Security and Emergencies, WPRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td>Technical Presentation</td>
<td>Professor Vernon LEE, Professor at National University of Singapore; Senior Director of Communicable Disease, Ministry of Health, Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Parliamentary Panel</td>
<td>Hon Dr Saia Ma'u PIUKALA, Minister of Health, Legislative Assembly of Tonga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Stevenson Jakey KUARTEI, Chairman, Health and Social Welfare Committee (Senate), Palau National Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Laumatiamanu Mathew Ringo PURCELL, Chairperson, Social Development Committee, Legislative Assembly of Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Dr Kham LE VAN, Standing Member, the Committee for Social Affairs of the National Assembly of Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Dr Ratu Atonio Rabici LALABALAVU, Member, Parliament of the Republic of Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Dr Mayfong MAYXAY, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Lao PDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20min</td>
<td>Plenary Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1230-1345</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Side event: Information booth for Parliamentarians (TB Caucus and Korean National Tuberculosis Association)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During the COVID-19 pandemic, innovative solutions have played important roles in responding to health emergencies in many countries. Digital technologies were applied in surveillance, testing, treatment, and risk communication. New processes, products and services were introduced in the areas of hospital upgrading, isolation mechanisms, supply chain management, and research collaboration. Looking forward, we must re-imagine health innovation as a part of the future health system that delivers health for all. Countries have to find their answers to this question: what role a government/parliament should play to harness innovation for the attainment of SDGs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter/Panelist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>Dr Gauden GALEA (virtual), WHO Representative to China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>Professor Myongsei SOHN, Chairman of the Research Investment for Global Health Technology Fund (RIGHT Fund); Professor Emeritus, Yonsei University; Member of WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) Revision Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>Dr Beverly Lorraine C. HO (virtual), OIC-Undersecretary Public Health Services Team and Director of Health Promotion Bureau, Philippines Department of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Parliamentary</td>
<td>Hon Professor Keizo TAKEMI (virtual), Senior Advisor, Japan Parliamentarian League for the WHO; House of Councillors, National Diet of Japan, Tokyo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Lork KHENG, Chairperson of Commission on Public Health, Social Work, Veterans, Youth, Rehabilitation, Labor, Vocational Training and Women's Affairs, National Assembly of Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Dr Dzulkefly BIN AHMAD, Member, House of Representatives, Parliament of Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Dr Jungsook SUH, Member, National Assembly of the Republic of Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20min</td>
<td>Plenary Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1515-1545</td>
<td>Afternoon tea + Mobility break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A key lesson learned from health emergencies is that parliaments and parliamentarians have a role to play but they need to have the opportunity to play it. During COVID-19, parliamentarians reported both impediments and opportunities to making the most of their system functions to support pandemic response and health system resilience. Some parliaments could not meet, others observed an excessive reliance on executive orders, budget changes were sought sometimes after the funds had been spent. For others, there was a new understanding of the importance of health at the center of a multisectoral approach to a pandemic response and a renewed understanding of the fact that health impact leads to economic and social impact. For parliamentarians to utilize their functions to support health system resilience and pandemic preparedness, what can be learned and applied from considering the use of political capital and leadership?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td>Technical Presentation</td>
<td>&quot;Progress towards the new pandemic accord&quot; by Dr Romina STELTER (virtual), Technical Officer, WHO HQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20min</td>
<td>Technical Presentation</td>
<td>&quot;Opportunities in the use of political capital and leadership&quot; by Dr Nicola NIXON, Director of Governance, The Asia Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td>Reflections on Political Economy: Country Experiences</td>
<td>&quot;Fiji experience&quot; by Hon Dr Ifereimi WAQAINABETE, Minister for Health and Medical Services, Fiji; Vice-Chair of the APPFGH; Host of the APPFGH5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td>Reflections on Political Economy: Country Experiences</td>
<td>&quot;Mongolia experience&quot; by Hon Dr Chinburen JIGJIDSUREN, Member of Parliament, The State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Parliamentary Panel</td>
<td>Hon Lork KHENG, Chairperson of Commission on Public Health, Social Work, Veterans, Youth, Rehabilitation, Labor, Vocational Training and Women’s Affairs, National Assembly of Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Dr Hyun-young SHIN, Member, National Assembly of the Republic of Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Fuavaa Suluimalo Amataga PENAIA, Member of Parliament, Legislative Assembly of Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Dr Puakena BOREHAM, Member, Parliament of Tuvalu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon Pia S. CAYETANO, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20min</td>
<td>Plenary Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1730-1800</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1800-2000</td>
<td><strong>Welcome Reception hosted by WHO Western Pacific Regional Office</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Side event: Regional Launch of the IPU/WHO Handbook Strengthening Health Security Preparedness</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td><strong>Presentation</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Regional Launch of the IPU/WHO Handbook Strengthening Health Security Preparedness: The International Health Regulations (2005) and tools for parliamentarians&quot; by Dr Martin CHUNGONG (video message), Secretary-General, Interparliamentary Union (IPU) and Dr Tedros GHEBREYESUS (video message), WHO Director General</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td><strong>Welcome Toast</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Kidong PARK, Director of Data Strategy and Innovation, WPRO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Day 2 Thursday, 25 August 2022

0800-1630

Field Visit Programme

Track 1 Pandemic Preparedness and Response

[Track 1] will allow participants to learn about the Korean government’s pandemic response system and policies and explore sites supporting research and development in the bio-health field for pandemic preparedness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
<td>The National Biobank of Korea (NBK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
<td>Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
<td>Sa Han Chun (Lunch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
<td>Osong Advanced Medical Complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:20</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Track 2 Health Innovation

[Track 2] will allow participants to learn how innovative technologies are being used for better healthcare, particularly in the acquisition, processing, and study of healthcare data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
<td>Seoul National University Bundang Hospital (SNUH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:20</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
<td>PHILKYUNGJAE (Lunch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
<td>Korea Social Security Information Service (SSIS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
<td>Korean Digital Health Start-ups (Conrad Hotel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:20</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Conrad Hotel</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Ballroom (3rd Floor), Conrad Seoul

1630-1715

Reflections on Field Visit

Moderator: Dr Genevieve HOWSE
Coordinator, Health Law and Ethics, WPRO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15min</td>
<td>Recap Presentation</td>
<td>Track 1: Ben LILLEY, Technical Officer, Health Law and Ethics, WPROTrack 2: Youngchan KIM, Consultant, Health Law and Ethics, WPRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15min</td>
<td>Parliamentary Panel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20min</td>
<td>Plenary Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Details</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1715-1750</td>
<td>Next Steps for the APPFGH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Presentation of comments and revisions</td>
<td>Ben LILLEY, Technical Officer, Health Law and Ethics, WPRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20min</td>
<td>Plenary Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10min</td>
<td>Announcement of Seoul Communique</td>
<td>Hon Minseok KIM, President of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health; Member, Health and Welfare Committee, National Assembly, Republic of Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750-1830</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20min</td>
<td>Round of Farewells</td>
<td>By all Members of Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Invitation to APPFGH7</td>
<td>Hon Dr Chinburen JIIGJIDSUREN, Member of Parliament, The State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
<td>Dr Kidong PARK, Director of Data Strategy and Innovation, WPRO</td>
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<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
<td>Hon Minseok KIM, President of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health; Member, Health and Welfare Committee, National Assembly, Republic of Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>1830-1900</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900-2100</td>
<td>Farewell Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>5min</td>
<td>Farewell Toast</td>
<td>Hon Minseok KIM, President of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health; Member, Health and Welfare Committee, National Assembly, Republic of Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>20min</td>
<td>Cultural Programme</td>
<td>&quot;Music in the Dark&quot; by Hanbit Orchestra Korean Traditional Music Performance by Chaoreum</td>
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We, Parliamentarians, representing 15 countries across the Asia-Pacific Region, gathered at the Sixth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health (APPFGH) in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 24 to 25 August 2022, on the theme of *Strengthening health security and building resilience: learning and improving from the COVID-19 pandemic*.

1. Welcoming this opportunity to meet in person in Seoul to discuss our roles as parliamentarians and our individual and collective contribution to strengthening health security and building health system resilience;
2. Recognising power in dialogue and strength in solidarity;
3. Encouraging innovation and ideas, and recognising the importance of science and science-based policy and programming for health systems;
4. Understanding that countries we serve have all been affected by COVID-19 and seek to end the public health emergency associated with COVID-19;
5. Acknowledging the need to build resilient health systems and preparedness for future health emergencies;
6. Recognising that Universal Health Coverage and health security are complementary goals, and that a strong primary health care approach is critical not only to achieving UHC but also to strengthening pandemic preparedness and resilient health systems.
7. Recognising that at-risk communities and marginalized groups are most severely affected by lack of pandemic preparedness and weak health systems, including the poor, women and children, persons with disabilities, older people, migrants and refugees;
8. Recognising the burden of a protracted pandemic on health care workers;
9. Understanding that the consequences of lack of pandemic preparedness and weak health systems can include shocks to economic growth and reversals in development progress;
10. Recognising that preparedness and health system resilience is an investment in the development of the countries we serve and in the region;
11. Emphasising the need for partnerships at global, regional, national, and local levels to build systems and capacities that involve the whole-of-government and whole-of-society;
12. *Expressing* appreciation to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, with support from the Ministry of Health and Welfare, for hosting the Sixth Meeting and demonstrating national and regional leadership in pandemic preparedness, health system resilience and innovation in advancing health system priorities; and

13. *Acknowledging* the technical leadership of the World Health Organization in making pandemic preparedness and health system resilience one of the top priorities for health and wellbeing in the Asia-Pacific Region:

**We urge our fellow parliamentarians to:**

1. *Advocate* for the inclusion of pandemic preparedness and health system resilience in all of our relevant portfolios, policies, and projects as an investment in our political, economic and social well-being;

2. *Embrace and encourage* innovation including the use of digital technologies to enhance health service provision and equitable access to health care;

3. *Promote* system interventions such as stronger legal frameworks to enhance legal preparedness across sectors and ensure availability of necessary functions and powers and alignment of response;

4. *Seek* opportunities individually or collectively to advance the aim of the APPFGH to demonstrate regional leadership in advocating for pandemic preparedness and health system resilience;

5. *Be active* in supporting sufficient national appropriations and sustainable financing for pandemic preparedness and health system resilience;

6. *Represent* the interests of our constituencies to ensure that the needs of all are met and to ensure inclusive participation, especially groups like women and children, in pandemic preparedness and response and progress toward health system resilience;

7. *Engage* in international partnerships, platforms, and coalitions, including the APPFGH, to share experiences between countries and strengthen international cooperation for pandemic preparedness, health system reliance and innovation; and

**We request the Secretariat to:**

1. *Provide* guidance and technical assistance to countries as needed and requested in their efforts to address the need for pandemic preparedness and health security;

2. *Develop* knowledge products useful to parliamentarians in leveraging their function to provide national and regional leadership in pandemic preparedness and health system resilience, and in other functions, such as making the case for health as a smart investment; and

3. *Continue* to strengthen engagement with parliaments, including through the APPFGH, to support enhancement of the role of parliamentarians in supporting pandemic preparedness and health system resilience.

**We adopt this Seoul Communique on 25 August 2022 as the outcome statement of the Sixth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health.**