**FORUM:** World Health Assembly

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to Strengthen the Facilities of Developing Small Island States in Addressing their Health Challenges

**SUBMITTED BY:** Japan

**CO - SUBMITTED BY:** Canada, China, Indonesia, India, Laos, Pakistan, Sweden, Turkey,Ukraine,United States of America.

World Health Assembly,

*Aware* of the fact that many islands lack healthcare infrastructure, resulting in inadequate facilities, a shortage of trained professionals, and limited access to essential medicines and technologies,

*Concerned* with the highest prevalence rates of non-communicable diseases in Small Island Developing islands as ten of the countries with the highest rates of obesity worldwide are small island states,

*Keeping* in mind that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are in the crossfires of multiple crises: climate change, the economic and social repercussions of COVID-19, and a crisis of debt,

*Alarmed* by the threats that global climate change poses on SIDS and the fact that these small nations are the most vulnerable to climate change impacts,

1. Encourages the establishment of enhanced healthcare systems, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), such as but not limited to:
2. Providing sufficient healthcare workers that cover diverse health needs and care to reduce health workforce gaps in SIDS through ways such as but not limited to:
   1. Collaborating with medical educational institutions to promote a training program for the healthcare workers, allowing them to practice sophisticated and advanced skills such as emergency preparedness, infectious disease management, and climate-related health impacts,
   2. Providing incentives to the healthwork training programme participants and providing competitive salaries, career advancement opportunities to retain skilled healthcare workers,
   3. Encourages collaboration with international medical institutions to create exchange programs allowing SIDS healthcare professionals SIDS healthcare professionals to gain specialized skills and experiences,
3. Encouraging partnerships between SIDS and tech companies to provide digital infrastructure and equipment necessary for implementing digital health technologies, overcoming the geographical barriers to healthcare through ways such as but not limited to:
4. Articulating adoption of digital health platforms to expand access to medical consultation, diagnosis, and monitoring health records for populations in isolated areas within SIDS,
5. Developing secure electronic health record systems that enable efficient data-sharing between healthcare providers within SIDS;

1. Emphasizes member states to implement a sophisticated plan to develop climate-resilient Healthcare Infrastructure through such ways but not limited to:
2. Encourages SIDS to prioritize the construction and renovation of healthcare facilities with climate resilience in mind, ensuring that hospitals, clinics, and health centers are equipped to withstand natural disasters, sea-level rise, and extreme weather conditions:
   1. Using sustainable and disaster-resilient materials in the construction of healthcare infrastructure to reduce vulnerability during climate-related events,
   2. Healthcare facilities in coastal areas be relocated or elevated as necessary to prevent damage from sea-level rise,
3. Implementing various financing mechanisms to promote climate resilient and inclusive infrastructure development by:

i.Providing grants and low-interest loans specifically for infrastructure improvements in SIDS healthcare facilities, prioritizing resilience against climate impacts,

ii. Coordinating with international health agencies to access technical expertise and support in designing climate-adaptive healthcare infrastructure,

iii. Establishing new collaborative and inter-sectoral models to finance infrastructures, creating funds to provide ﬁnancial support to projects improving health infrastructure;

1. Urges member states to engage in the enhancement of disaster prevention, building SIDS’s capacity to respond to health emergencies through ways such as but not limited to:
2. Calls for increased support for preventive healthcare measures in SIDS to reduce the spread of communicable and non-communicable diseases by:
   1. Expanding vaccination programs with a focus on immunization against preventable diseases particularly targeting high-risk populations such as children and the elderly,
   2. Implementing public health awareness campaigns targeting the SIDS residents that promote healthy lifestyle practices, focusing on hygiene, nutrition, and preventive care, using culturally sensitive materials in local languages to maximize outreach and effectiveness,
   3. Establishing early warning systems will mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, crucial for nations prone to extreme weather events. developing real-time surveillance systems to rapidly collect and analyze data from health facilities and mobile units, allowing early detection and reporting of emerging health threats,
3. Proposes the establishment of regional research centers to study and monitor disease trends specific to SIDS, especially those affected by climate change by such as but not limited to:
   1. Creating specialized research facilities equipped to study tropical and vector-borne diseases that are prevalent in SIDS, including malaria, dengue, Zika, and other diseases whose incidence may be exacerbated by changing climate patterns,
   2. Developing partnerships with international health organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and universities to access technical expertise, funding, and resources needed to support high-quality research on emerging health risks,
   3. Implementing climate-health surveillance programs within these centers to track the effects of environmental changes—such as rising temperatures, sea level rise, and extreme weather events—on disease transmission patterns and vector populations, enabling data-driven predictions and responses,
4. Promotes community preparedness and resilience programs to empower local populations in responding to health threats posed by climate events, which includes:
   1. Conducting regular community drills for health emergency scenarios, such as disease outbreaks and extreme weather events, to improve public readiness,
   2. Providing first-aid and emergency response training to community members, especially in remote and vulnerable areas, to create a network of informed and prepared responders,
   3. Developing communication systems that can quickly disseminate alerts and guidance to communities during health crises, including mobile alerts, radio broadcasts, and community leaders, ensuring that the public receives timely and accurate information;
5. Calls on member states to enhance international cooperation to promote resource exchange and improved accessibility in vulnerable areas to acquire necessary needs through ways such as but not limited to:
6. Strongly encourages the establishment and strengthening of regional partnerships between SIDS, neighboring countries, and regional organizations to support coordinated health and resilience efforts, specifically by:
   1. Share best practices and resources for health system strengthening,
   2. Develop regional agreements on health resource sharing during crises,
7. Improved inter-island and global supply chain connectivity, reducing transportation costs, facilitating trade and economic integration:
   1. Create dedicated inter-island connectivity hubs to centralize transshipment points, offering consolidated services for shipping, warehousing, and distribution, leading to reduced logistics costs and faster delivery times,
   2. Encourage the establishment of alternative and resilient transport routes, including new maritime shipping lanes and airfreight services, to reduce dependency on a limited number of supply chains and mitigate risks of disruption;

1. Strongly Urges member states to collaborate with health organizations and governments to implement a comprehensive plan addressing ways to allow SIDS to collectively showcase advancements and identify areas needing further support through ways such as but not limited to:
2. Establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to track the effectiveness of health resilience measures in SIDS by:
   1. Establishing a regional health resilience dashboard to visualize and monitor real-time data on healthcare infrastructure, disease trends, and vaccination rates, accessible to both national governments and international partners,
   2. Setting annual progress benchmarks to guide health improvements in SIDS, such as goals for increased healthcare access, reduction in climate-sensitive diseases, and strengthened health infrastructure,
3. Establish an independent monitoring body in WHO to make continuous reviews and evaluations on the health resilience efforts in SIDS by:
   1. Conducting regular assessments of health system preparedness and response capacities to climate-related health risks and disease outbreaks in SIDS,
   2. Reviewing climate-health data periodically to ensure that evolving climate risks and health challenges are integrated into SIDS health planning to prevent for the future,
   3. Evaluating the effects of international assistance and cooperation programs, including the impact of infrastructure and workforce training projects in SIDS,
4. Encourages SIDS governments to submit annual reports to the United Nations and relevant health bodies, outlining progress made in health resilience initiatives by:
   1. Providing detailed progress reports on improvements in healthcare infrastructure, workforce training, disease control measures, and public health education,
   2. Including data on climate-sensitive health risks such as the incidence of vector-borne diseases, heat-related illnesses, and mental health impacts of climate-related disasters,
   3. Assessing funding and resource allocation data to ensure transparency and effective use of resources for health resilience projects;

1. Requests SIDS regions or countries to cooperate with the United Nations to support sustainability projects aiming to enhance these countries' ability to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change through such ways but not limited to:
2. Encourages the development of renewable energy projects within healthcare facilities to ensure reliable power for essential services during extreme weather events by such as but not limited to:
   1. Implementing solar, wind, and other renewable energy systems to power health facilities, especially in remote areas, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and enhancing resilience during power outages,
   2. Providing backup energy storage solutions like batteries and microgrids to support medical equipment, vaccine refrigeration, and other critical healthcare functions during emergencies,
   3. Facilitating partnerships with international green energy organizations to supply renewable energy resources, technology transfer, and training for local maintenance teams,
3. Encourages sustainable agricultural and food security projects to strengthen nutrition and overall health by:
   1. Promoting climate-resilient agriculture practices such as drought-resistant crops, soil preservation, and organic farming to ensure consistent food supply and prevent malnutrition,
   2. Supporting local food production and distribution systems to reduce dependency on imports, enhance food security, and maintain nutritious diets during natural disasters;
4. Further encourages organizations, NGOs, individual member states government, and SIDS governments to raise awareness on the health crisis of SIDs through measures such as but not limited to:
5. Encourages the launch of public health campaigns to educate communities on climate-sensitive health risks and preventive measures by:
   1. Developing informational materials on diseases associated with climate change (e.g., vector -borne diseases, heat stress) and distributing them through local media, social media platforms, and health centers,
   2. Using mobile health units to reach remote areas with information on hygiene practices, waterborne disease prevention, and climate resilience strategies,
6. Supporting the voice of representatives of SIDS to address their complaints regarding national health issues by considering desired visions that will alleviate the current circumstances by:
   1. Encouraging other nations to provide positive feedbacks and address potential solutions for SIDs representatives,
   2. engaging local government leaders and health professionals to Communicate public health information in a way that is culturally relevant and accessible to diverse populations.