



IAPO Statement on Agenda 14.6 WHO response in severe, large-scale emergencies 69th World Health Assembly

Speaker: Jolanta Bilińska Chair IAPO

Thank you Chair, honourable members and distinguished delegates.

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) is an alliance of patient groups in official relationship with the WHO and representing the interests of patients worldwide. Our 250 member organizations are based in more than 65 countries covering over 60 different conditions.

We welcome the Director General's report on WHO's response in severe large-scale emergencies. We commend the WHO for the efforts made to ensure that all peoples, even those in regions of conflict and emergencies, attain the highest possible level of health.

The report reassures us that WHO has stood faithfully by its mandate to provide technical assistance and aid in emergencies as expressed and set out in Article 2(d) of the Organization's Constitution and recognized in numerous resolutions of the World Health Assembly.

IAPO, however, expresses concern for the welfare of chronically ill patients, especially child patients, who are either on the move, within refugee camps and/or internally displaced within regions affected by severe large-scale emergencies. This patient group is facing an unprecedented scale of humanitarian and health care crisis as their continued access to vital lifesaving health care services, pharmaceuticals and health devices has been disrupted by health system collapse.

We urge that Member States to note the Director General's report and prioritise the health needs of these chronically ill patients within severe large-scale emergencies by undertaking a timely response to their critical needs in order for them to maintain the highest possible level of health. IAPO continues to support the WHO strategy to establish regional emergency solidarity funds to ensure a more predictable and reliable funding mechanism for emergency response in high-risk regions.

Thank you for your attention.