

American  
Academy of  
Pediatrics



**GHTC**  
global health technologies coalition



Global Health Council



### **Statement on agenda item 3.3—Public Health Preparedness and Response**

*Delivered at the 142nd session of the World Health Organization Executive Board meetings.*

Thank you, Chair. The Global Health Council and its members—PATH, Global Health Technologies Coalition, American Association of Pediatrics, and Infectious Diseases Society of America—appreciate this opportunity to comment.

GHC members have decades of experience in preventing, detecting, and responding to outbreaks, and in the development, scale-up, and delivery of lifesaving technologies. We welcome this report, and the Research and Development Blueprint for Action to Prevent Epidemics is an important call-to-action. We applaud recent progress in strengthening country capacity, including the successful containment of the 2017 Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Global Health Security Roadmap led to improved collaboration among partners and stakeholders, mobilizing supplies and responders including a mobile laboratory for rapid sampling, allowing the Ministry of Health to respond effectively. DRC now has activated an Emergency Operations Center connected across relevant health ministries to enable rapid response to public health emergencies such as the recent cholera outbreak. These experiences have shown that infectious disease physicians and scientists are not only central in the response, but also provide vital expertise to policy formulation and system strengthening to achieve IHR compliance. Health professional associations are also a critical voice.

We support efforts by WHO and Member States to promote compliance with the International Health Regulations, and call for concerted global and national action to accelerate pandemic preparedness. We are heartened more than 60 countries have completed joint external evaluations. We urge WHO and Member States to enact the recommendations of the 2017 International Working Group on Financing Preparedness and ensure that every country has a costed, financed National Action Plan by 2019. We urge creation of an independent monitoring and accountability mechanism, further action on the Research and Development Blueprint, and the robust inclusion of antimicrobial resistance in WHO's health preparedness and response plans. These are critical steps in continuing the political momentum to improve preparedness generated by the 2014–16 Ebola crisis.