

## CHAIR'S DECLARATION ON THE 6<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA [GHSA]

1. The 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) , hosted by the Royal Thai Government through the Ministry of Public Health during 18-20 November 2020, to discuss the need to synergize global efforts on global health security.

### WHEREAS

2. **Recognizing** the important role of the GHSA in addressing the global health security capacity gaps through its collaborative efforts to reinforce achievement of the goals of the International Health Regulations (2005) and other relevant global health security frameworks to achieve the vision of a world safe and secure from global health threats posed by infectious diseases, either natural, deliberate, or accidental;
3. **Acknowledging the** active participation and valuable suggestions of the participating GHSA governing body, including its Steering Group and Chair, Secretariat, Permanent Advisors (FAO/OIE/WHO), Action Packages, Task Forces, and contributing countries in implementing the GHSA 2024 Framework;
4. **Expressing concerns** of the devastating impact caused by global security health threats such as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the unprecedented and multifaceted effects of this pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies, livelihoods, economies, global trade and travel, education, physical and mental health, and these are particularly severe for women, children, elderly, and vulnerable groups;
5. **Recalling** the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 74/270 (2020) on global solidarity to fight the COVID-19 and World Health Assembly resolution 73.1 on COVID-19 response, among others, **underscoring the need for international cooperation** to ensure global access to safe and effective medicines, vaccines and medical equipment, and calling for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society responses;
6. **Noting** the Chair's summary on GHSA Ministerial Meeting 2016, the Kampala Declarations 2017, the GHSA Bali Declaration 2018 **highlighting an importance of multi – sectoral engagement** in addressing global health security threats;
7. **Welcoming** ongoing initiatives in responding to financial preparedness and responses in coping with COVID-19 such as ASEAN Response Fund, the African Union COVID-19 Response Fund, the COVID – 19 Emergency Recovery Support Fund of the European Commission [ERSF], and the World Bank's Health Emergencies Preparedness and Response Multi-donor Fund [HEPRF];
8. **Underscoring** the importance of high level commitment and leadership, effective multi-sectoral coordination and cooperation, sustained financial investment, and whole-of-government and whole-of-society

approaches for preparedness, prevention, detection and response to global health security threats and addressing health security gaps;

9. **Recognizing** that a robust domestic health system with strong national commitment and the use of appropriate technology play critical roles in providing accessible and equitable health-care services serving as a strong foundation for national, regional and global health security;

10. **Underscoring** the urgent need to strengthen the technical capacity of GHSA member countries to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats through GHSA mechanisms, by transparently sharing best practices, lessons learned, resources and tools, by noting the different challenges and capacities of individual member countries and by taking views of health security from both national and regional levels;

## THE MINISTERS

11. **Reaffirmed** our commitments to enhance a resilient health system to ensure continuation of essential health services for target population during pandemic as well as to utilize the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach for timely detection and responses to rapidly changing global health security landscape informed by experiences and best practices sharing from COVID-19 responses;

12. **Underscored** the need to intensify our concerted efforts in achieving the GHSA 2024 Overarching Target by advancing a multi - sectoral approach, promoting adherence to international human and animal health standards, progressing linkages between health security preparedness and environmental health, and advancing for sustainable financial investment for global health security efforts for all relevant sectors;

13. **Utilized** knowledge on gaps during the COVID-19 pandemic responses identified by relevant health security assessments such as the Joint External Evaluation, IHR (2005) Monitoring Framework, the National Action Plans for Health Security, and the Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway to further enhancing national and international prevention, preparedness and emergency response planning for future pandemics, and balancing protection of health with other economic and societal aspects;

14. **Emphasized** the need for global solidarity to nurture multi- sectoral cooperation and collaboration with relevant sectors at all levels taking a One Health approach to address root causes, and establish early warning systems and risk reduction initiatives of global health security threats and mitigate their impacts;

15. **Requested** continued technical support of the Tripartite (FAO/OIE/WHO collaboration) and formal representation of environment partner in fostering the One Health approach as well as to encourage all contributing countries to continue mainstreaming the One Health into their national animal and human health, agricultural and environmental activities;

16. **Called for** all contributing countries, development partners, relevant international organizations, private sectors, and academia to support ongoing global health initiatives to ensure equitable access to safe, effective,

affordable diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutic treatments, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and health technologies in effectively addressing COVID-19 and other global health security risks;

17. **Urged** relevant GHSA Action Packages and Task Forces, in collaboration with key stakeholders to initiate and further advocate on priority issues including development of diagnostic, vaccines and therapeutic treatments, management of PPE, strengthening of biosafety and biosecurity and laboratory systems, enhancing workforce development, investment in innovative techniques and research development, maximizing existing regional and global networks, as well as sharing best practices; and

18. **Called for** the Steering Group to set up systematic monitoring, regularly review progress of the implementation of the GHSA 2024 Framework and its overarching target, and report to the 7th GHSA Ministerial Meeting.

***Declared at the 6th Global Health Security Agenda Ministerial Meeting, Kingdom of Thailand, Dated 20 November 2020***