



**Australian Multicultural Acton Network Inc**

ABN: 40 172 914 431

Assn No: A06217

**Mr Ravi Krishnamurthy JP**

PRESIDENT

**26/11/2024**

**Submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care  
Regarding Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)  
By Ravi Krishnamurthy, President of AMAN**

**Introduction**

This submission responds to the proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005), as outlined in the National Interest Analysis (NIA) document. On behalf of AMAN, I acknowledge the significance of this treaty in strengthening global health governance and ensuring Australia's preparedness for future public health emergencies.

**Support for Amendments**

AMAN recognizes the critical updates to the IHR, particularly lessons derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, which underscore the necessity of international cooperation and stronger frameworks for public health response. We applaud Australia's role in supporting these amendments at the 77th World Health Assembly and emphasize the alignment of the proposed changes with national and regional health security priorities.

**Key Points**

**1. Strengthened Global Health Architecture**

- The Amended IHR introduces enhanced mechanisms for risk identification, equitable resource allocation, and information sharing. These measures are critical for addressing cross-border health threats and ensuring Australia's resilience to pandemics.

**2. Equity in Access to Health Products**

- Ensuring equitable access to essential health products during emergencies is vital. AMAN supports the obligations encouraging States to collaborate on production and distribution to mitigate global disparities.

**3. Sovereignty and National Interests**

- We are reassured by provisions affirming States' sovereignty in health response policies. The flexibility offered by the IHR aligns with Australia's unique public health challenges and governance structures.

**Recommendations**

**1. Enhanced Regional Collaboration**



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- Australia should leverage its leadership position to foster technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives, particularly within the Pacific region, to enhance the implementation of IHR core capacities.

## **2. Stakeholder Engagement**

- The establishment of the National IHR Authority should involve consultation with diverse stakeholders, including multicultural organizations like AMAN, to ensure inclusive approaches.

## **3. Transparency and Accountability**

- Mechanisms for monitoring compliance with the amended obligations should be transparent and ensure accountability among all signatories.

### **Conclusion**

The Amended IHR represents a progressive step towards a robust global health system. AMAN fully supports Australia's adoption of these amendments, with the belief that they align with national interests while contributing to regional and global health security. We stand ready to collaborate in implementing these vital reforms.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.

Sincerely,

Ravi Krishnamurthy