

Universal Health Organisation (UHO)



12th July, 2025

Shri. Narendra Modi,
Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Government of India
New Delhi – 110001

Subject: Urgent appeal to reject the proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) before the 19th July, 2025, ratification deadline

Respected Prime Minister, Sri. Narendra Modi ji,

You are aware that the World Health Organization (WHO) has been pursuing significant amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR), which, if adopted, would give the WHO, an unelected international entity, unduly increased authority over national health decisions, including responses to future public health emergencies. These amendments are being made, parallel to the World Pandemic Treaty. Essentially, both the documents, as per the provisions, reinforce each other in strengthening clauses that hand over the authority to WHO to direct sovereign national governments. This authority is being bestowed upon the WHO, through IHR Amendments, giving it a wide-ranging interventionist mandate over citizens and governments.

According to publicly available information, the World Health Organization (WHO) is requesting member states to ratify sweeping amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) **no later than 19 July 2025**. In their current form, if adopted, these amendments confer unprecedented authority upon external bodies to influence—or even override—India's domestic public-health decisions, and even her Constitution. India has a proud legacy of managing public health challenges with resilience and innovation. We must not surrender our sovereign health decisions, **affecting who have Constitutional safeguards**. These cannot be **over-ridden by any external unelected body**, without full safeguards and democratic accountability.

We earnestly urge you to oppose and reject these amendments before the looming 19 July ratification deadline.

The main concerns here are:

1. **Erosion of sovereignty** – Granting WHO power to declare health emergencies that automatically binds India to risky decisions bypassing Parliament, the States, and our federal decision-making processes.
2. **Absence of public and parliamentary debate** – Far-reaching changes such as IHR cannot be rushed through without open public scrutiny, expert testimony and a formal vote in both Houses.

Universal Health Organisation (UHO), Regn. No: Greater Mu/0000280/2023 (The Societies Regn. Act, 1860),
Regn. No: F-0082902(GBR) (Mumbai Public Trust Act, 1950)

Managing Committee: Dr Amitav Banerjee (Chairperson), Dr. Arvind Singh Kushwaha, Mr. Ashutosh Pathak,
Mr. Prakash Pohare, Dr Veena Raghava (Treasurer), Prof Bhaskaran Raman (Secretary), Dr. Praveen K Saxena,
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3. **Threat to constitutional rights** – Public health falls primarily under the State List. Any international commitment that impinges on State autonomy or individual freedoms, **ultra vires the Constitution of India** and cannot be allowed.
4. **Equity and proportionality** – A uniform, top-down health treatment mechanism may not account for India's diverse socio-economic realities and could impose disproportionate burdens on vulnerable communities.
5. **Government of India participation in international negotiations** demands the highest level of caution and transparency.
6. An important concern is diverting our scarce resources for measures dictated by an external agency, and sidelining our own experts.

India has repeatedly demonstrated the capacity to manage complex health challenges with innovation and resilience. We must not cede this hard-won autonomy to an external entity—however well-intentioned—without watertight safeguards and democratic accountability.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you:

- Publicly state India's position on the IHR amendments by rejecting them.
- Organise a comprehensive parliamentary debate and, if necessary, a vote before any instrument of ratification is deposited.
- Ensure that India does not endorse the amendments by or before 19 July 2025 **unless changes are made that are subordinate to our Constitution and respect India's sovereign status on these matters** and until they fully respect our sovereignty, federal structure, and citizens' rights.
- **We must be willing to exit the WHO and say so.**

Your prompt action in the days ahead is critical. We rely on your leadership to protect India's freedom to chart its own public-health course and **sovereign status on these matters**. **Please withhold the Government of India's ratification of the amendments.**

We are counting on your leadership to protect India's freedom to make its own public health decisions.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely, and with our kindest regards

Dr Amitav Banerjee, Dr Veena Raghava, Prof. Bhaskaran Raman,
on behalf of Universal Health Organisation (UHO)

Copy to: 1. Sri. J. P. Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare
 2. All Members of Parliament

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