



**ESMO Statement
for the
WHO Executive Board Meeting
30 January – 7 February 2023**

**Agenda item 12.1: Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies
- Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience**

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) represents more than 28,000 cancer professionals from over 160 countries.

We welcome the Director-General's report on 'Strengthening WHO preparedness for, and response to, health emergencies' and would propose that further consideration be given to:

1. Providing healthcare professionals with ethical and methodological guidelines on decision-making to help them deliver the best possible outcomes in situations where resources are scarce or require reallocation.
2. Developing an action plan to address the needs of vulnerable patients who are unable to access health services, due to travel restrictions or the fear of leaving their homes, on a timely basis during a global health emergency.
3. Leveraging civil society's resources, like our own 'COVID-19 and Cancer' web portal, to inform efforts to minimize the risk to cancer patients during health emergencies.

We remain available to assist your invaluable efforts to prepare for, and respond to, health emergencies.

Thank you.